Workers Of The World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

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Why Elmer Davis Beats Anti-Soviet War Drum

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OPA WRECKS MANY PRICE CEILINGS

Striking Miners Stand Firm For Social Demands

By Joseph Keller

APRIL 13—The 400,000 soft coal miners on strike since April 1 mean business about securing their precedent-making social demands before they will even consider the question of wages. This was brought home sharply to the stunned mine operators when AFL United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis and the UMW negotiating committee dramatically broke off negotiations on April 10 and stalked out of the conference room.

"We trust that time, as it shrinks your purse, may modify your niggardly and anti-social propensities," declared Lewis at the conclusion of a scathing statement he read to the operators just preceding his walkout.

From the very start of the mine union negotiations, the UMW representatives have insisted on the consideration of a series of life-and-death social demands going far beyond the wage question.

WHAT DEMANDS MEAN

These are directed at eliminating the terrible toll of accidents in American mines; providing adequate health, medical and sanitation facilities in the filthy, decrepit company towns; ensuring the welfare of miners' widows and orphans; compensating the injured and their families; restricting the price-gouging in the monopoly company stores and rent-gouging on company-owned dwellings.

To all these vital demands of the miners the smug, grasping operators replied that the mine union committee was merely bringing up "time-killing trivia with the obvious intent of stalling negotiations and creating a national crisis."

TERRIBLE TOLL

These "trivia," as Lewis demonstrated at the very opening of negotiations, include the slaughter of 28,000 miners and injury of more than a million in the past 14 years. This casualty list comes from the refusal of the operators to provide proper safety equipment, their resistance to mine inspection and safety laws, their control of state inspection boards.

These "trivia" include scores of thousands of widows and orphans left to starve because the operators have blocked compen-

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W. Va. Strikers Halt Operations At Strip Mines

By Gus Nickolias

(Special to The Militant)

FAIRMONT, W. Va., Apr. 5—Striking coal miners in both District 31 of Fairmont, W. Va., and District 6 of Bellaire, O., had carloads of pickets "visiting" non-union strip mines to see that operations cease.

By the second and third days of the national soft-coal strike, strip mines in this area had stopped work entirely, and the situation here is quiet.

FEW INCIDENTS

There have been a few incidents in the Fairmont area where members of the supervisors' union performed non-contract work. This brought sharp reprimands from United Mine Workers District 50 officials who are determined to unionize and organize the foremen.

O. S. Bosley, president of the Fairmont supervisors' union, warned foremen that failure to observe their union's pledge to refrain from work during the strike, might constitute a "serious incident" in the miners' struggle. He did not reveal details of any violations.

Wall Street And The Wonderful Lamp

Japanese Workers Raise Demand For Control Over Production

By Charles Carsten

In their fight for jobs at living wages workers in Japan are using an effective weapon—workers' control of production. In numerous cases when Japanese employers refuse to meet labor's demands in strikes, the union takes over the business and operates it.

Complete figures on strikes using what the April 8 N. Y. **Times**, in reporting development, calls "labor's new weapon" are not available. However, the **Times** says the Japanese newspaper **Mainichi** listed the following in which workers obtained what they demanded through seizures:

"Five metal factories, seven chemical plants, five machine tool factories, two mines and a spinning mill, an electric factory, a furniture factory and a prefabricated housing factory, to which must be added at least two newspapers and three magazines."

"Sometimes continued control is part of their demands," adds the **Times**.

Japanese capitalists are blaming "threatened workers' control" as the "chief obstacle" delaying a return to full production. They say they do not want to invest their own money nor float loans "when workers threaten to grab control as soon as the company is able to operate."

Therefore, when the U. S.-dominated government made known its intention to illegalize workers' control of production, Tokyo's "informal" stock market registered a sharp upward movement.

Japanese workers correctly declare that it is the employers who are holding back resumption of production. The government tacitly admitted the truth of this contention and, in its plan, is attempting to delude the workers with a "promise" to seize plants where employers are found guilty of sabotaging production.

In order to prove that the employers are sabotaging produc-

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IN THE NEWS

Cultural Influence

Interviewed on April 9 at the British Embassy in Amsterdam, Lord Inverchapel explained that the Indonesians "want the Dutch to stay, as they fully realize the social and cultural importance of the Dutch influence." He added that his own task in Java had been to create "the atmosphere" for the Dutch and Javanese leaders to confer, stating: "It cost me a lot of whiskey, but I succeeded."

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Except The Books!

"It has long been the practice of the management in its annual reports and other messages to stockholders to provide information which will contribute to the fullest possible understanding of General Motors' position and its operating policies." (1945 Annual Report, General Motors Corporation.)

"We don't even open our books to our stockholders!" (Reply of GM Vice-President Harry W. Anderson to UAW-CIO demand "Open the Books of the Corporation" for union and public examination).

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Guess Who's Lying

"To the policies (foreign affairs) which Mr. Roosevelt gave the last years of his life to make effective, Mr. Truman has given loyal, consistent and successful support." (Editorial in N. Y. **Times**, April 12.)

"One year after his (Roosevelt's) death, his legacy is being defiled. The Hoover dreams are returning. President Truman ignores the behest of his dead leader and tears up the Yalta pledges." (Editorial in Stalinist **Daily Worker**, April 12.)

New Relief Committee Aids Destitute European Workers

By Evelyn Atwood

(Special to The Militant)

The American Committee for European Workers Relief was organized last week to provide relief packages of food, clothing, medicines and other much-needed items to aid destitute European workers and their families. The best fighters for labor are suffering terrible hardships and hunger as a result of the Nazi occupation and the chaos and devastation caused by the Allied armies.

Sponsors and officers of the Committee include individuals prominent for many years in labor defense and relief activities. National headquarters of the Committee is located at 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

"The special task of our Committee," Rose Karsner, Executive Secretary of the Committee, explained, "will be to provide relief for those workers who have been in the forefront of the fight against fascism and reaction. Many of them worked for years in the underground movements against the Nazi terror and occupation.

"Some of them were deported. Their families were torn apart, some never again to be reunited. All their possessions were taken from them. Now they write to us that upon their return home they are 'without everything' and urgently in need of help."

These distressed families, she said, live in France, Holland, Belgium, Greece, and Italy where suffering is especially acute.

Other members on the National Committee of the newly formed relief agency are Dr. Antoinette Konikow, Chairman; George Novack, Vice-Chairman; Duncan Ferguson, Dr. Grace Carlson, Charles Jackson, Myra Tanner Weiss. The National Committee expects to extend its work by setting up Local Committees in many cities throughout the country.

"This Committee has emerged out of the work that a group of women including myself have been engaged in since June 1945," said Rose Karsner. "At that time we received appeals for aid from about a dozen impoverished families in France and began collecting packages of food and clothing to send to them. Since then, the list has grown to several hundred."

COMMITTEES FORMED

In Paris, Rose Karsner said, the distribution of packages has been centralized through the Comite Internationale de Solidarite Ouvrier. Similar committees are now in process of formation in Belgium, Holland and Greece. These committees forward the addresses of needy families, and after the packages are received abroad, distribute their contents as equitably as possible.

"Up to March first," she continued, "we were able to collect and ship 3,685 pounds of clothing and 1,920 pounds of food, totaling 5,605 pounds, or over

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O'Dwyer Sales Tax Scheme Denounced By SWP Local

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

NEW YORK, Apr. 11—The New York local of the Socialist Workers Party this week issued a statement denouncing Mayor O'Dwyer's tax program, now before the City Council as "another blow aimed at the living standards of the New York workers."

O'Dwyer's tax program will "please the rich and punish the poor," says the SWP statement. Its heart is "the doubling of the sales tax from one to two per cent," which is "expected to bring in almost two-thirds" of all revenue anticipated from new tax measures.

The vicious character of sales taxes was exposed by the SWP during the November, 1945 mayoralty campaign in New York. At that time the election platform of the Trotskyist candidates, Farrell Dobbs and Louise Simpson, demanded abolition of the existing city sales tax which is "wrung out of the poor."

"On top of this outrageous tax," the SWP platform explained, "the lower income brackets have been shouldered with grievous income taxes that slash heavily into the family budget . . . Tammany Hall, the Republicans and all the rest of the political agents of the rich seek office in order to perpetuate this ruthless system.

"Abolish the sales tax! Levy a heavy tax on the greedy real estate interests! Petition Congress to abolish all taxes on incomes below $5,000 a year! De-

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Government 'Price Control' Agency Helps Big Business Drive To Hike Living Costs

By Art Preis

Brushing aside all labor and consumer protests, OPA Administrator Paul Porter last week signed an order, approved by Economic Stabilizer Chester Bowles, to remove price ceilings from several thousand consumer goods items representing about 15 per cent of all consumer goods in terms of dollars.

This action of the agency which is supposed to "control prices" gives legal cover and a great additional impetus to the inflationary drive of Big Business, which is seeking to rob labor of its recent wage gains and to augment huge profits through charging "all the traffic will bear" for scarce goods.

Through appeals to both Porter and Bowles, a joint committee of the CIO, AFL and railway brotherhoods unsuccessfully attempted to block the Office of Price Administration's inflationary order. The union committee warned that this action "is a major gamble with the economic future of America."

LABOR PROTESTS

The order lifting price ceilings on hundreds of essential household items, as well as many products customary to the average standard of living in this country, was issued on the pretext that it would have no great bearing on the cost of living since it did not effect "necessities." Anything the masses don't need for mere survival is considered "not a necessity" by the capitalist government.

But the government is preparing to legalize extortionate price increases even for indisputable necessities. This was shown by the action last week of the House Agricultural Committee, which unanimously voted approval of a proposal to discontinue the present huge government subsidies to the meat trust and to permit the meat barons to rob the people directly through a six-cent a pound hike in meat prices. Meanwhile, the

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Filipinos Demand U. S. Imperialism Get Out Entirely

The Philippines Civil Liberties Union denounced the Tydings and Bell amendments, now before Congress, which affect Philippine independence and permit the U. S. Government to purchase and retain property after July 4, 1946. "The amendments," declared the Civil Liberties Union, "would emasculate Philippine independence by perpetuating American sovereignty beyond July 4."

The Philippine press asked editorially, according to the April 7 N. Y. **Times**, "if the American eagle had become a vulture." It labelled the amendments "an unholy scheme of legalized looting to plunder the Philippines and convert it into a happy hunting ground for American business men."

The United States Government is being condemned for "embarking on a new policy of stripping her colonies in a resistless march toward the commercial supremacy of the world."

BITTER PROTESTS

The whole Commonwealth administration is in violent opposition to the proposed legislation. Other Filipino groups have voiced bitter protests against the proposals, which they say, will permit Wall Street to continue commercial exploitation of the country.

Even President Sergio Osmena, who was hand-picked by Washington, branded the amendments as a "curtailment of Philippine sovereignty and a virtual nullification of Philippine independence." He added that they violate the United Nations Charter recognizing "the equal rights of nations."

Old "Gag" Law Used To Indict Phila. CIO Head

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

PHILADELPHIA, Apr. 5—The District Attorney's office here has dug out a 110-year-old act, passed in 1836, in an attempt to victimize Harry Block, president of the CIO Council here, who with nine others was indicted today for alleged violation of injunctions against mass picketing in the recent General Electric strike.

Three true bills were drawn up against all ten. But the District Attorney is trying to "throw the book" at Block through a fourth bill, based on the 1836 act, which makes it illegal for an author, printer or publisher to use "contemptuous words tending to bias the minds of the public."

ATTACKED INJUNCTION

According to the indictment, Block violated this act when he attacked the original restraining order issued by Judge Thomas D. Finletter. Block's "crime" was his statement during a radio broadcast over Station WPEN on February 25 that the restraining order was "a phony injunction handed down by an anti-labor court."

Block, two international union representatives and seven officers of CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Local 155, were also indicted under three counts for alleged violation of laws stemming from the old Common Law of pre-Revolutionary War England, upon which the Pennsylvania legal system is still based.

Secret Clause Bars All News Of Atomic Data

To protect their monopoly and misuse of atomic information Washington military chiefs are supporting a severely restrictive clause of the MacMahon atom control bill.

Drew Pearson, Washington columnist, made the following revelation over the radio on April 4:

"Army brass hats are delighted with one secret provision still remaining in the revised atom control bill. This is the secrecy clause making it a criminal offense for a newspaper even to find out commercial information, not military information, regarding atomic energy.

"An editor," Pearson explains, "could go to jail even if he merely discovered atomic information, but didn't publish it. It is one of the strictest censorship laws ever proposed — much stricter than wartime."

This is apparently the vicious clause alluded to in an article in the April 11 N. Y. **Times**, which states: "It was reported that this section (of the MacMahon bill) provided penalties of 10 to 20 years and $10,000 to $20,000 in fines for violations . . . that are injurious to the country."

Of course, the big corporations like du Pont and Union Carbon and Carbide will continue to have access to the atomic information obtained by the government and paid for by the American people.

See Editorial "Fighting High Prices" Page 4

WEST COAST LONGSHORE STRIKE IS CALLED OFF

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

SAN FRANCISCO, Apr. 6—In stop-work meetings up and down the west coast, CIO longshoremen voted last week to postpone indefinitely their strike originally scheduled for April 1. This vote was taken upon the insistence of the Stalinist leadership of the CIO International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, headed by Harry Bridges.

The ILWU leaders, who had already spent seven months in futile negotiations with the adamant Waterfront Employers Association, insisted on strike postponement "in deference" to a "request" by a government conciliator that the longshore workers place their demands in the hands of a "fact-finding" board. This is the government's latest machinery for stalling the workers and whittling down their demands.

ILWU DEMANDS

This Stalinist proposition was made in spite of the uncompromising and brazen attitude of the Waterfront Employers Association. The latter's policy has been an attempt to bargain off a few-cents-an-hour increase in return for concessions which would drive down working conditions and seriously weaken the union. When their patience was exhausted the pressure of the ILWU membership for militant action, forced the leadership to agree to a strike vote. Ninety-two per cent of the men voted "yes."

Demands of the ILWU include an increase to $1.50 an hour as against the present $1.15; retroactive pay back to October 1, 1945, when the contract expired; $2.25 for overtime and night work; $3.37 for week-end work; and vacation pay.

The employers refused to budge an inch until the strike vote was taken. They then countered with an offer of 18 cents. To this was attached, however, a series of demands which included a return to the old "preferred gang" system; speed-up; relaxing of safety provisions; and no retroactive pay.

Their wage offer was later changed to 23 cents, but without vacation pay, which meant an actual decrease in take-home pay. On top of this, they demanded a form of "company security" which would require the

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Packing Barons Sabotage Meat Supplies To Force Big Price Increases Through Organized Scarcity

The following letter exposing the packing baron's deliberate withholding of meat, was written to The Militant *by a packing house worker.*

By J. Rever

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 10—The meat situation is as bad today as it was at any time during the war. This condition exists at the same time that officials of the meat packing industry claim there is an adequate supply of stock in the country. If there is enough stock in the country to be slaughtered, why should it be so difficult to buy meat?

Just a short time ago the major packers of the country were brought to their knees by the strike of the packing house workers. The "big four" (Swift, Wilson, Armour, and Cudahy) were closed down by a national packing strike that shut down every plant in the country. This was the first strike of its kind in this industry. Never before were the packers faced with such solidarity of the workers.

For two weeks the plants were shut down and finally the Federal government came to the aid of the packers and took over the plants.

The workers went back to work with the promise that they would get a substantial raise. The plants were then taken over by the government and operated under the regular supervision of the company. After a short time the government announced that the workers would receive a 16-cent per hour pay increase at the same time that the packers would get higher prices.

To those who knew the industry it was clear that the price "relief" given the packers would easily pay for the 16 cent increase. Now the packers claim that price ceilings must be done away with and they must be assured a greater profit. They claim on the one hand, that black market operators are paying over the ceiling price for stock and on the other that price restrictions must be done away with.

TRUE PICTURE

Here is the true picture. The packers right now are deliberately not buying. Day after day the market reports in the daily paper report a bearish and an unsettled market, with, "the major packers not too interested." Just yesterday (April 9) the St. Paul Pioneer Press reports: "top-fed steers slipped to $16.60."

How do the packers explain the fact that the price of cattle goes down when there is such a great demand for meat?

The answer is this. The American Meat Packing industry is waging a lockout against the farmers, workers and consumers. They are saying, "unless you give us a greater profit we refuse to process stock for you."

The purposes of the packers are: 1. To obtain a greater profit on their product. 2. To point a finger at their smaller competitors in the field, shift the blame on to them, and thus get government action to help crush the small operator. 3. To aim a demoralizing blow at the union. The companies have cut their payrolls more than 50 per cent. 4. To force down prices to the farmer.

EXPOSURE NEEDED

It is high time for the workers to investigate this situation. The CIO Packinghouse Workers Union has publicized this false shortage, but not to the extent that it should have. The union should appoint a committee whose duties it should be to acquaint the public with these facts. 1. The profits of the meat packing industry during the war. 2. Their assets. 3. The owners and their big business tie-ups. 4. The amount of meat in cold storage.

The packing house workers are aware that all freezers in the plants and freezer space that can be rented are filled to capacity. The packers then are deliberately not processing meat and conspiring to keep meat off the market.

All this goes on while the plants have been "taken over" by the government. To packing house workers it rightfully seems that Big Business and the government are birds of a feather.

It is high time that the American people took notice of this sabotage of their food supply by the corporations.

CIO Veterans In Buffalo Plan Big Rally

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

BUFFALO, N. Y., Apr. 10—Plans for a mass meeting of veterans as the first step in a campaign to protect the interests of all veterans, have been announced by the Buffalo CIO Council Veterans Committee.

This meeting, scheduled for Friday night, April 26, at 703 Main Street, will demand immediate action on housing, jobs for the unemployed veterans, and an immediate end to the violation of ex-servicemen's rights by employers.

In the last three months the CIO Veterans Committee has organized 15 veterans' groups in as many union locals, which take up the numerous cases of discriminations practiced by employers. It has been successful in eliminating many of them through the union machinery. This activity has resulted in many vets in the plants joining the union.

Through a vigorous campaign around housing and decent jobs the CIO Committee intends to show both the non-union and unemployed vets that the trade unions are a mighty force to win good conditions for all workers. That this is an urgent task is indicated by the fact that 14,000 vets in this city are without employment.

STRIKING MINERS STAND FIRM FOR SAFETY, HEALTH DEMANDS

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sation laws. They include disease ridden, insanitary communities and "homes" because many operators will not use their huge profits to provide even a semblance of modern sanitation and health facilities for their company towns.

The miners are determined to secure decent conditions first of all through a welfare fund, provided from the operators' profits, which the union itself will control. They are demanding safety equipment at operators' expense. They insist that the operators provide them such "trivia" as running water, bath facilities, garbage collection and sewage disposal.

COMPANY STORES

They are seeking an end to the extortionate prices of the company stores through a 10 per cent discount on all purchases at present price levels and 20 per cent on mine clothes and equipment. As Lewis charged, the 3,600 mining company owned stores "were inferior in service and in goods because competition is eliminated and thus prices are high."

Lewis minced no words in characterizing the smug attitude of the wealthy operators towards these "trivia."

"When we sought surcease from blood-letting you professed indifference. When we cried aloud for the safety of our members you answer 'Be content'—'twas always thus' . . . When we emphasized the importance of life you pleaded the priority of profits; when we spoke of little children in unkempt surroundings you said, 'Look to the State.'"

BREAD AND ROSES

Now the operators are complaining that they are willing to give the miners the highest pattern of wage increases but have been "refused with abuse." The miners answer, in the words of the old labor song, "We want bread, but we want roses too." If they win their social demands, they will set an example for the rest of American labor that may have far-reaching progressive consequences.

IN TACOMA
Buy "The Militant"
at these stands:
9th and Pacific
Pacific bet. 12th and 13th
(above 'Midway Amusements')

Scabherding In Pittsburgh

After local deputy sheriffs failed to smash the CIO United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers' picket line at East Pittsburgh, Pa., Westinghouse plant, mounted state cops attempt to do the job of clearing a path for scabs.

West Coast Longshore Workers Pressured To Call Off Strike

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union to assume financial responsibility for work-stoppages.

FEAR REAL STRUGGLE

Behind the Stalinist move to prevent ILWU strike action was their fear that a longshore walkout would precipitate a general waterfront strike. In such a struggle, the genuine militants would have an opportunity to push to the fore. A real struggle would provide the conditions in which the Stalinist machine control of a number of waterfront unions might be undermined.

This fear was shown in the Stalinist engineering of the block-the-strike movement. A scheme was worked out whereby similar Stalinist-inspired motions were passed almost simultaneously in other maritime unions. All of them urged the ILWU to postpone strike on the pretext of awaiting the outcome of the projected May 6 "One Big Union" convention of six CIO maritime unions and the independent Marine Firemen's union.

One of the purposes of the "One Big Union" move, as contemplated by the Stalinists is to take the right to strike from the individual unions by requiring authorization from the top leadership of the "One Big Union." That leadership, of course, would be Stalinist-dominated.

Four days before the stop-work meeting here, the boss daily press featured CIO National Maritime Union President Joseph Curran's statement requesting ILWU strike postponement. Just the day before the meeting, U. S. Conciliator Edgar L. Warren requested postponement while a "fact-finding" board would "investigate" the dispute.

STALINIST FRAUD

Even under this coordinated barrage of anti-strike propaganda, a number of rank and file union members at the meeting openly opposed the move to halt the scheduled strike. However, the realization that the other Stalinist - dominated unions might not come to the longshore workers' aid, as the simultaneous resolutions indicated, impelled the members to vote overwhelmingly for postponement. They left the meeting, however, with the feeling that the big struggle has by no means been averted, but only postponed.

The action of the Stalinist ILWU leaders, together with their henchmen in the other maritime unions, in preventing the scheduled longshore strike is one more conclusive proof of the fraud of the Communist Party's claim to new-found "militancy." The Stalinists are simply using more militant phraseology to cover the sellout policies for which they became especially notorious during the war.

Their fundamental policy continues to be collaboration with the employers, dependence upon capitalist government agencies like the "fact-finding" boards, and opposition to militant labor struggle.

BRIDGES' ROLE

The waterfront workers have not forgotten that it was Harry Bridges who was chiefly responsible for the establishment of the Pacific Coast Maritime Industry Board, the government-ship operators' agency which whittled away many of the previous strike-won gains of the workers and which undermined the system of union control of hiring.

It was Bridges' wartime enunciation of the concept that the unions must be the instrument of enforcing the speed-up which has now emboldened the employers to demand that speed-up provisions be written into the new contract. It was the policy of Bridges, who spearheaded the Stalinist campaign in the unions for a permanent no-strike pledge and who wrote such a pledge into the Warehousemen's contract, which has helped inspire the demand of the waterfront employers for "company security" against strikes.

How Westinghouse Fared In War

The Westinghouse Corporation, which for over two months has refused to negotiate with CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, made profits from both sides of the imperialist war.

This was revealed by two Japanese Big Business men, Kwanzo Tanaka and Ichiro Hattori of the Mitsubishi Trading Company, who have made official statements that Westinghouse owns 20 to 30 per cent of the Mitsubishi Electrical Engineering Company. Westinghouse dividends in Japan were reserved for them during the war.

Thus while Westinghouse workers suffered a wage-freeze, their bosses piled up profits out of the misery of Japanese and American workers alike.

Notice To Militant Readers

The New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party is beginning the organization of its first band. We have obtained the help of a very well known and capable band leader and music teacher. He has offered to organize an SWP band and to teach free of charge any friends of the Party who wish to learn to play a musical instrument.

All those interested are invited to attend meetings of the band. For further information call C. Kerry, GR. 5-8149.

DFL Convention In Minnesota Shows Friction

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

ST. PAUL, Minn., Apr. 12—The State Convention of the Democratic - Farmer - Labor Party, meeting March 30 and 31 in St. Paul, was a further revelation of the political blind alley into which the Minnesota workers were led with the abandonment of the independent Farmer-Labor Party.

The once powerful Farmer-Labor Party, already weakened by the inadequate program of its short-sighted political officeholders and trade union bureaucrats, was merged in 1944 with the third-rate Democratic state machine.

The main drive in this fusion came through the Stalinists who had taken control of many sections of the F-L P. Under the slogan of "unity of all progressive forces," the Stalinists pressed for the abandonment of independent labor political action. This move followed closely the wartime dissolution of the Communist Party on a national scale under the same slogan.

DISUNITY OBVIOUS

At the recent convention of the merged party, despite previous weeks of caucusing and compromise, the disunity between the elements of the Democratic and the ex-Farmer-Labor forces was so great that the convention itself adjourned without being able to nominate a slate of candidates. Only one compromise candidate, Harold Barker, Detroit Lakes, running for Governor, was nominated by the convention itself.

Despite many protests it was necessary to refer the naming of the rest of the slate to a meeting of the State Committee held on April 8th. At this meeting the State Committee endorsed a slate of virtually unknown political candidates.

DESERT TO REPUBLICANS

Most of the outstanding names of the Farmer-Labor Party's past have either deserted to the Republican ranks or have refused to risk their political future on the weak and faction-torn DFL. Hubert H. Humphrey, labor-supported Mayor of Minneapolis and one of the main instigators of the fusion move in the Democratic Party, refused to consider the offered post of senatorial candidate.

Hjalmar Peterson, a former Farmer - Labor Party Governor and prominent candidate for years, and Francis Shoemaker, an old-time figure in the F-L P, have filed for office on the Republican ticket. They joined ranks with Henrik Shipstead who, in the last campaign, deserted the Farmer-Labor Party and was elected Senator on the Republican ticket.

31-Day Struggle Wins Gains For Chicago Revere Workers

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

CHICAGO, Apr. 11—In a 31-day strike, CIO United Auto Workers Local 477 has won a substantial victory over Revere Copper and Brass Company here. The company came to terms today, granting an 18½-cent an hour raise plus "fringe" concessions on premium pay and working conditions. Local 477 has come out of the strike more firmly united than ever.

From the outset the local leadership and members demonstrated that they were determined to win their demands and would not tolerate any company chiseling.

A written agreement won by the union on the first day of the strike provided that the company would not attempt to operate the plant. Representatives of the union were permitted to inspect the struck plants whenever the union so requested, to make certain that no productive work was being done by maintenance and office employes.

To the company's first insulting offer of only 12½ cents an hour, and even this made contingent upon price increases, the union answer was a roar of "Noes." The company's next proposal of 18½ cents an hour, providing the union yielded concessions on seniority and working conditions, was also sharply rejected. The company offered a third proposal, the 18½-cent raise plus two "joker" clauses. One was designed to institute a speed-up and the other, to break down bargaining procedure on future wage increases.

In reply, Local 477 revoked all union passes, pulled out maintenance men in the plants, and declared a cold shutdown. A membership meeting of 1,500 voted unanimously to continue the strike. When the company then issued slanderous letters aimed at dividing the union, the members responded by strengthening their picket lines. Not a man or piece of material entered the plant.

UNION SOLID

Local 477's victory would have been ever more sweeping if all Revere plants had acted as firmly. Many plants in other cities, either unorganized or in independent unions, went back to work while Local 477 was still out. For this reason Local 477 was finally compelled to accept a compromise on the formulas of "cooperation" in production and future wage bargaining.

Local 477 is now urging the UAW-CIO to begin immediately an organizing drive in all brass and copper mills in the country, and set up a brass and copper division within the UAW, to coordinate action in future struggles. It has also called upon the UAW to eliminate incentive pay, piecework, and all "company security" clauses in contracts.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

900 Strikes Planned Within Next 30 Days

More than 900 strikes are scheduled to be called in the 30 days after April 10 unless the workers' demands are satisfied, according to a report last week of the Department of Labor.

This flood of strike notices, totalling 830 in the month ending April 10, surpassed the previous monthly high of slightly more than 600 set last fall before Congress voted to withhold NLRB funds to prevent the taking of strike polls. Only 16 strike notices are being withdrawn on the average per week, Labor Department officials glumly admitted, while 210 were filed in the last week covered by the report.

Most of the notices have been filed against individual plants. This indicates a new wave of strikes, largely against the independent concerns. These latter, some of them extremely wealthy, are notoriously anti-union. They can be expected to put up bitter resistance to the unions demands.

The wage gains won by the big strikes in auto, steel and other basic industries have inspired a sweeping spirit of militancy throughout all sections of the organized workers.

• • •

CIO Utility Workers Hold First Convention

The first convention of the newly organized CIO Utility Workers Union of America was held in Atlantic City last week. This union was chartered by the CIO last August. Its most important contract to date, secured in January, covers 20,000 members in the Consolidated Edison Company, New York City.

An industrial union for the hundreds of thousands of utility workers is needed to unify the poorly-organized utility workers and fight for improvement of their conditions.

One bad step which the convention took was the incorporation of an "anti-red" clause into its new constitution. This would bar any person who formerly belonged to the Communist Party from ever holding office and provides for the expulsion of present members.

Clauses of this type not only violate the right of union members to freely maintain their political opinions, but often become the means for victimization of good union militants or bureaucratic hounding of anyone else the leadership may not like.

This anti-democratic clause had been approved by Allen S. Haywood, CIO National Organization Director. It was endorsed in violently red-baiting speeches at the convention by two other chief lieutenants of CIO President Philip Murray, CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey and CIO Steel Workers Secretary-Treasurer David J. McDonald.

• • •

Time Marches Back For Luce Publications

In a prominent advertisement in the N. Y. Times, April 10, the Time Magazine Unit of the CIO Newspaper Guild of New York published an open letter, headed "TIME marches back!". It was addressed to Henry R. Luce, tycoon-publisher of such powerful organs as Time, Life and Fortune, and producer of the March of Time, with its slogan "Time marches on."

The Guild charges representatives of the Luce interests with refusing to grant Time editorial employes the maintenance of membership clause contained in the previous contract which had been in effect 18 months. This clause had been approved by the War Labor Board. Negotiations for a new contract have been in progress since last November.

In its advertisement, the Guild reports that the Luce spokesmen "have refused to bargain with us on one of the most vital points in our 1945 contract—the continued security and existence of our union at Time, Inc."

The attitude of the capitalist press to its own employes is indicative of its policies in writing about organized labor generally.

• • •

Disabled Veterans Get UAW Support

One more illustration of the fact that only the workers have any real interest in aiding the veterans was given at the recent CIO United Automobile Workers convention in Atlantic City.

A committee of four white and Negro disabled veterans from the Atlantic City hospital made a moving appeal to the convention to support their plea for specially-equipped automobiles to be provided by the government so that they might be able to travel about and lead lives as close to normal as possible.

The convention passed a strong resolution demanding that the government provide such automobiles for all veterans who are unable to move about freely because of loss or paralysis of lower limbs. It instructed the officers of the union to present this demand personally to President Truman and the officials of the War and Navy Departments.

In addition, the convention authorized the purchase of three specially - equipped automobiles as a gift for the veterans at the Atlantic City hospital to be used in training them to drive automobiles despite their physical handicaps.

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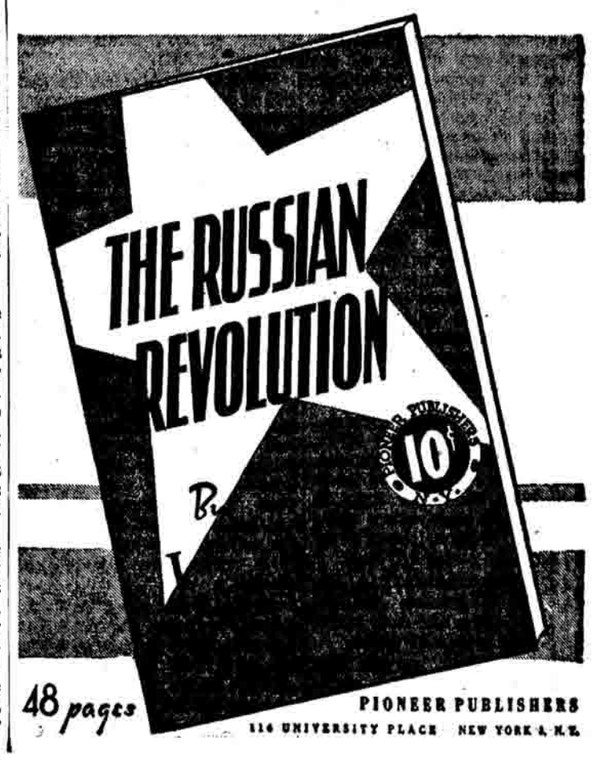

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New War Will Doom Our Civilization

This is the fifth and concluding article in a series discussing the death-dealing weapons in the hands of the imperialist warmongers.

By Eugene Varlin

In previous articles, we sought to show that the development of new techniques and weapons of war will make World War III immeasurably more destructive and terrible than World War II.

There are the rockets, known as V-2's, which Germany introduced late in World War II and used in her air war against England. These can have a 5,000 mile range and a speed of 5,000 miles an hour. A rocket launched from the east coast of the United States could reach Russia in less than an hour. Models of greater range and speed are already in the experimental stage.

There are the weapons of biological warfare which are capable of infecting whole populations with fatal diseases like infantile paralysis, typhoid, cholera and leprosy. These weapons used in conjunction with rockets could rapidly spread deadly diseases over vast areas. Every major power already possesses weapons of this kind.

Horrible though they are, the weapons of biological warfare pale by comparison with the deadliest weapon in the arsenal of the imperialists, the weapon which in its first two trials wiped out the two Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — the atomic bomb.

The atom bombs used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were 20,000 times as powerful as TNT. Small, light atom bombs could be planted at strategic points inside a country before the outbreak of war. If this is done, World War III may begin and end when someone pulls the master switch that sets them off.

Atom bombs used in this way could wipe out the overwhelming majority of a country's cities and people in a few hours. Or atom bombs, like the weapons of biological warfare, could be launched by rockets.

ONE WORLD OR NONE

Today the atom bomb is an American monopoly. However, in the recently published book, "One World or None," Frederick Seitz and Hans Bethe, two atom scientists, say that "any one of several determined foreign nations" might even be ahead of the United States in five years' time. Dr. Urey, another atom scientist, believes that "if an armament race continues . . . the Russians . . . may have begun to produce bombs within about three years." If war should break out five years from now, several of the warring powers will be in possession of the atom bomb.

The development of the rocket and the atom bomb make it highly unlikely that World War III will be fought in the same way as World War II. The most famous military action of World War II was establishing the Normandy beachheads. This landing was accomplished, after years of preparation, by the greatest single assemblage of the air, naval and ground forces in history. Nevertheless, had the Germans at that time been in possession of only a few atom bombs, they could have destroyed the entire attacking force, the men, the airplanes, and the battleships in a matter of minutes.

In an article entitled "The Age of Annihilation," printed in the January-February issue of **Army Ordnance**, the well-known British military analyst, Major-General J. F. C. Fuller gives the following picture of the war of the future.

WORLD CONFLAGRATION

"Whole countries," he says, "will be girt about by radar sets, ceaselessly 'listening in' for the first note of the broadcast of annihilation. In the vicinity of these instruments will be hidden away two tactical organizations of atom-charged and propelled rockets—the one offensive and the other defensive. The first will be ranged on every great foreign city in the world, because before the war is launched (to declare it would be sheer madness) no single nation will know who among the rest is its true enemy.

"The second organization will be directed by the radar sets and as soon as they signal a flight of offensive rockets speeding toward them, the defensive rockets will automatically be released by radar to speed into the heavens and explode in whatever cubic space in the stratosphere radar decides the enemy's offensive rockets will enter at a calculated time.

"Then, miles above the surface of the earth, noiseless battles will be fought between blast and counterblast. Now and again an invader will get through, and up will go London, Paris in a 40,000-foot-high mushroom of smoke and dust."

This is the kind of war which Wall Street is now planning to unleash upon us and all the other peoples of the world.

Former OWI Director Now Beats Drums For War On Soviet Union

By Charles Carsten

The book "One World Or None" is a symposium which contains articles by eleven eminent scientists analyzing the dire threat of the atomic bomb. Among the authors are Prof. Albert Einstein, Dr. Harlow Shapley, Dr. Irving Langmuir and other men renowned in the world of science.

These men are best qualified to speak and write about the scientific aspects of atomic energy. All of them are distinguished scientists and some were closely connected with the development of the atom bomb.

They conclude that if the nations of the earth engage in an atomic armaments race it will end in a catastrophic world war, during which, as Dr. Philip Morrison states, "the cities of men on earth will perish." This is the actual danger.

SPEAKS FOR WALL ST.

But this is denied by none other than Elmer Davis. He sees a bigger danger. In a review of "One World Or None," carried in the March 30 **Saturday Review of Literature**, Davis asserts that "not the atomic bomb" but "the menace — of Russian aggression" is the main danger.

Until recently Elmer Davis was the director of the Office of War Information. In that job he laid down the World War II propaganda line for the U. S. intellectuals. Before and during World War II the army of authors, journalists and radio writers who supported American capitalism faithfully carried out the tasks assigned to them by Wall Street. They justified Washington's imperialist aims by painting up the war as a holy fight against fascism and sold it to the people as a crusade for the "Four Freedoms," etc., etc.

Their new task is to prepare public opinion for war against the Soviet Union. Here is the bill of goods Davis now proposes they sell to the public.

Among "present political realities," says Davis, "the biggest, most enigmatic, and most ominous—is Russia."

"Not the atomic bomb," continues Davis, "has overshadowed international relations in the past months; it is the menace—the more menacing because nobody knows how much it really amounts to—of Russian aggression."

OPPOSES SCIENTISTS

The United States cannot divulge the secret of atomic energy to the Soviet Union as some scientists propose, asserts Davis, because "The Russians do not behave like people to whom we could safely confide the secret of the bomb."

Davis opposes the "world state" idea of the scientists, because leaving "out the Russian bloc would mean two world states, a rivalry whose probable outcome anyone can predict." And, it must be added, this rivalry is already a fact.

Why does he propose to exclude Russia from a "world state?" "It is the Russian political system that is the obstacle," declares Davis, "the totalitarian state . . . a monolithic state, all of whose resources can be mobilized and directed toward whatever end may be determined by the small group of resolute and secretive men who run the country."

And secondly, "Russia at present seems to be what is called a 'dynamic' state. Germany was dynamic under Hitler . . ." And the United States in its present drive for world domination? Not a word about this by Wall Street's mouthpiece Davis.

But, thirdly, ". . . this monolithic nation is also the home office of a world religion" — by which Davis means the Communist (Stalinist) parties.

WAR PREPARATION

"The alternative may be perilous," Davis admits, "but at least, choosing the alternative, we know enough to be on guard." This really means all-out preparation for atomic war against the USSR.

And, he adds, "Has it occurred" to the atomic scientists, "that if their one world turned out to be totalitarian and obscurantist, we might better have no world at all."

He and his Wall Street masters are willing to gamble with the fate of mankind in their mad drive for world domination. Failing this, as Davis puts it, "we might better have no world at all."

The U. S. imperialists, however, do not expect to be the losers in the war they are planning. They are stockpiling atomic bombs. They are building a bigger air force and fleet. They are developing long-range, death-dealing rockets. And they are pushing research on even more devastating weapons.

During the war against Germany and Japan Davis spoke differently about the Soviet Union. Then he sang hymns in praise of Stalin and Washington's great ally, just as today he is teaching the intellectuals a battle song with which to whip up public opinion against the USSR.

Thus while Washington is busy preparing for war in the diplomatic and military spheres, Davis, bellwether for the hireling intellectuals, is carrying out the job of mobilizing public opinion.

Just as during World War II the former head of the Office of War Information set forth the propaganda line for Wall Street's intellectual prostitutes, so now in an unofficial capacity Davis is performing a similar function as director of the Office of War Preparations.

Atom Bombs Cost Million A Day

The United States government is spending $400,000,000 a year to manufacture and improve atomic bombs, according to the United Press.

This $1,000,000-a-day program is being financed out of the President's special war funds, which are in effect a blank Treasury check to be drawn on as Truman sees fit.

These tremendous sums being expended to stockpile atom bombs and to test their military uses indicate that President Truman's hypocritical professions of a desire for peace are really a smokescreen to cloak American imperialism's preparations for World War III.

Strikers Demand Control Over Japanese Plants

(Continued from Page 1)

tion the workers have tried to increase production after taking over the plants. **Mainichi**, which is bitterly opposed to such actions, is forced to admit that the workers have succeeded in achieving this goal in at least two plants. But, of course, it would require the extension and development of workers' control throughout Japanese industry to show its real possibilities.

LABOR ENSLAVED

Japan's plutocracy opposes "workers' control of production" on the ground that it violates their property "rights," and because it threatens to break their control over the economy of the country. They also wish to keep workers' wages at the inhumanly low level of the war and prewar periods.

Before the war "Japanese industrial workers labored under conditions difficult to conceive," declares Andrew Roth in a book "Dilemma In Japan"—published last year. During the war, Roth continues, they "were reduced to slavery, slow starvation and inhuman toil."

See Editorial "Workers' Control" Page 4

Men not drafted into the army, and women between the ages of 12 and 60 were conscripted and forced to work wherever the government told them at a daily maximum for men of 1.60 yen (40 cents in U. S. currency), and for women one yen (25 cents).

These men and women were forced to work 12 to 16 hours a day and permitted no more than two days of rest a month. Industrial exhaustion, says Roth, reached a "fantastic degree."

MacARTHUR'S 'PROMISES' BRING NO RESULTS

Despite MacArthur's promises to curtail their power, a few extremely wealthy Japanese families still control about 60 per cent of Japan's economy. Allied with the smaller Japanese capitalists and the government which acts in their interest, they are making every effort to perpetuate these horrible conditions.

In order to fight effectively against the ruthless plans of the plutocracy, Japanese workers are joining unions at an ever increasing tempo. They are struggling with great courage and exhibiting admirable initiative.

Demonstrating Workers In Tokyo, Japan

This scene of Japanese government railway workers demonstrating for a wage increase in January, was one of the previous indications of an upsurge of labor in Japan. Now news has come that Japanese workers have set up workers' control in many factories.

Big Brass Covers Guilt Of Lichfield Officers

Last week the Big Brass of the London Area Headquarters continued their attempts to whitewash high-ranking officers guilty of ordering the beating and clubbing of wounded American soldiers at the Lichfield, England Guardhouse.

Captain Earl J. Carroll, former prosecutor in the court-martial of Lichfield guards, is now threatened with court-martial for giving the facts of the case to newspaper reporters. The Inspector General of the London Area compelled him "to make a sworn statement that he will have no further dealings with the press," according to **PM**, April 8.

Carroll had charged that the enlisted men on trial were the scapegoats for the crimes of their officers whose orders they were carrying out. He placed responsibility for the brutalities committed at Lichfield on former commander of the depot, James A. Kilian and his staff.

TERRORIZE WITNESSES

Meanwhile, five GI witnesses, all former combat infantrymen, have been terrorized by threats and beatings into refusing to testify. These men are being held at the London guardhouse.

One of the men, Robert E. Cox, said that the London prison officer, Capt. Wm. Coss, was "on the same status as the accused Lichfield officers" and "has shown hatred toward prosecution witnesses," according to an April 11 United Press dispatch.

Another witness, Thomas H. Ryan, said Capt. Coss "pushed me around the cell, grabbed me by the collar and used profane language."

These men have appealed for protection from "some high officer at Washington" or from the Secretary of War Patterson. However their plea is not likely even to get a hearing, for the Big Brass is anxious to shield the real culprits—Litchfield commanding officers and other officers in the high command.

Veteran Tells Of Atrocities At Lichfield

Another eye-witness account of officer brutality in the notorious U. S. Army guardhouse at Lichfield, England was given by Burford E. Elkin, a former GI paratrooper, in an interview published in the April 5 **Oakland Tribune**.

Elkin was a guard at Lichfield for a month and a prisoner there for three days. When he was assigned to guard duty, almost all of the prisoners were wounded combat men. "We could hear them screaming from beatings as we walked guard." Elkin said.

He was imprisoned for the trivial offense of going into Lichfield without a pass. Thus he learned at first hand about the terrible conditions inside the barracks.

"There were about 100 of us sleeping on the floor in one room," Elkin declared. "The barracks were unheated and we were dressed in light fatigue clothes."

BITTER SLOGAN

Cruel punishment was administered in the presence of officers on the slightest provocation. Giving additional evidence that officers knew and approved of the savage treatment of imprisoned GIs, Elkin stated: "One 19-year-old boy was called out of ranks by a guard for talking in formation. He was told to dig a foxhole in the frozen ground with his fingers. He worked at this for a half-hour—until his fingers were torn and bleeding. An officer idled a few feet away and watched the man."

Elkin told about the bitter slogan of the Lichfield prisoners, "Parade Rest — Twenty years." He explained it as meaning that the Brass Hats thought no more of sentencing an enlisted man to twenty years in the guardhouse than they did of issuing a routine command such as "Parade Rest."

After three days of imprisonment Elkin was released, but only because the Army needed combat paratroopers. At the end of the war, before he was granted permission to return home, he was forced to sign a statement declaring he had seen no atrocities during the war.

Wealthy Feast As Poor Starve In Hungary

Inflation is becoming a nightmare in Hungary. Nothing like it has been seen since the German inflation following World War I. The pengo is steadily dropping.

"Officially $1 is worth about 1,000,000 pengos," according to the April 6 **N. Y. Times**, "but on the black market the price is much higher and changes daily." On April 1, for example, it was 18,000,000 pengos; on April 4, 22,000,000.

As a result of the inflation and the scarcity of food, the workers are on the verge of starvation. However, as in other European countries the rich fare well.

VIOLENT CONTRAST

"Nowhere else in Europe," states the **Times** dispatch, "could such a violent contrast be found between the standard of living of most of the population and those few who have become friendly with the British and Americans or by some other means have gained access to expensive restaurants."

Food available for foreigners and the wealthy is completely beyond the reach of Hungarian workers. For them, says the dispatch, "the situation is very serious."

Not Really Imperialism

The United States will now surely have to take over trusteeship of the Marshall Islands lest another country observe the effects of the atom bomb on ships sunk there and thereby uncover secret information, according to **Newsweek**, March 25.

JOSEPH RAFFIN-DUGENS, OLD REVOLUTIONIST, DIES

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

PARIS, March 26—Joseph Raffin-Dugens, Trotskyist militant and participant at Kienthal Conference of revolutionary internationalists headed by Lenin in 1916, died in Grenoble today at the age of 85.

He entered the French socialist party in 1918. Elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 1910, and serving there until 1919, he remained a consistent socialist internationalist throughout the whole war of 1914-18 despite the wave of chauvinism which swept throughout the world at that time. In 1916, he participated in the Kienthal Conference with Lenin as the representative of the French socialists who remained true to internationalism. Carrying out its decisions, he voted with two others constantly against the war credits and prepared the ground for the organization of the new International in France.

EXPELLED BY CP

In December 1920, at the Tours Congress of the Socialist Party, he was one of the leaders of the majority which voted to join the Third International and then organized the Communist Party of France.

Illness prevented him for many years from participating actively in the movement after 1924. During the whole war of 1939-1945, however, he once again raised his voice against the chauvinism which this time inundated the Communist Party. For this vigorous stand the aged militant was expelled by the Stalinist leadership.

Early in 1945, together with his Grenoble comrades Charles Martel and Horace Martin, he joined the Parti Communiste Internationaliste, French section of the Fourth International. In their public declaration upon joining the PCI, the three old fighters said:

"We have reason to hope, in face of the capitulation of the CP, of which we were honored to be among the founders. The PCI, French section of the Fourth International, takes up the tradition of internationalism and of class struggle of Lenin, and grows every day in influence among the masses. . . . . It is today the only revolutionary party, the only party fighting for the proletarian dictatorship by means of the rule of Soviets."

New Relief Committee Aids Destitute European Workers

(Continued from Page 1)

two and a half tons of relief. Today we are shipping an average of 50 packages a week. However, this is far from meeting the needs of these poverty-stricken families. Through the expanded activities of our Committee, we aim to continue sending additional and adequate relief for as long as it is needed."

NEED FUNDS

Pointing out that heavy expenses and extensive labor are involved in packing, crating and shipping these many individual 11-pound relief packages, Rose Karsner stated that the Committee must also undertake to raise the funds necessary to defray these expenses. In addition, funds are needed to purchase many items of food and medicine not otherwise obtainable. She said there is an appalling amount of undernourishment and many diseases resulting from poverty and malnutrition.

"The suffering is so vast, and there are so many destitute families and starving children, that there cannot be too much relief," she said. "Through the newly-organized Committee we plan to expand our activities so as to insure at least a minimum of relief for these impoverished working-class families."

Readers of **The Militant** are urged to contribute food or clothing for packages, and funds to help defray the expenses of shipping packages and other Committee work. Send these to the American Committee for European Workers Relief, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

ROSE KARSNER

Rose Karsner, Executive Secretary of the American Committee for European Workers Relief, is widely-known in the labor movement for her years of activity in labor defense and relief work.

In the 1920's, during the terrible Russian famine, she was National Secretary of the "Friends of Soviet Russia," which helped to save millions of lives.

Until 1928 she was Assistant Secretary of the International Labor Defense Committee. In recent years she has been prominent in the work of the Bellusi Defense Committee and the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

A Letter Of Appreciation From A Worker In Holland

The following letter of thanks sent last month to the sponsors of the American Committee For European Workers Relief, shows the dire needs of working class militants in Europe.

* * *

"When I was arrested and transported to Auschwitz, (Nazi Concentration Camp), the Germans took all my clothes away. So when I returned I was without everything. Now you will understand that every piece of clothing is welcome to me . . .

"The Nazis have brought great misery over me. They took nearly all my family away. When I returned I found only my younger sister and my elder sister's child, who were both hidden during the occupation. Now we three live together in our old house and try to make the best of it.

"I have no family or friends in America, so it was a great surprise for me suddenly to get post from there and to know that some people abroad think of me."

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"Soviet Union and The UNO"

speaker:

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Asso. Editor, Fourth International

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"Entered as second class matter March 7, 1944 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879."

Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy.

—Leon Trotsky

Fighting High Prices

All through the war, despite government assurances that prices of consumers' goods would remain fixed, prices went up and up. Since V-J Day they have been climbing at an even faster rate.

Wage increases wrested by labor on the picket lines from the corporations are rapidly being eaten away by further increases in the cost of living.

This mounting inflation is a direct consequence of the anarchy of the rotting capitalist system and its second destructive, ruinous imperialist war. It is being utilized by Big Business and its political agents to unload the whole burden of war costs upon the American people.

The greedy capitalists see in the present scarcities of consumers' goods the chance to grab off greater billions than their record wartime profits.

Roosevelt set up the OPA as part of his "equality of sacrifice" program which promised to hold down prices, profits and wages. In reality, wages alone were frozen while prices and profits soared.

Instead of stabilizing prices, the OPA became the government instrument for giving official sanction to price increases and enabling the corporations to pile up fifty-two billions in war profits.

Now the National Association of Manufacturers and other Big Business interests are determined to sweep away the last remaining restrictons upon their profiteering operations.

In an effort to appease the corporations and prolong its own existence, the OPA is granting one price increase after another, and removing price ceilings on thousands of items. But these successive surrenders serve only to whet the appetites of the capitalists who want nothing less than total abolition of the OPA and all legal price-fixing.

The Truman administration, backed up by the liberals, the labor bureaucrats and Stalinists, is still touting the OPA as the only effective way to curb inflation and fight higher prices. But the four-year record of the OPA conclusively demonstrates that this capitalist-manipulated agency in a capitalist-dominated government cannot be relied upon to keep prices in check. The government's "price control" program is only a deception of the masses.

To protect their living standards against continually rising prices, the working people can depend only upon their own class forces and organizations. They can wage the fight effectively only through independent mass action.

First of all, labor must fight for a rising scale of wages which is automatically adjusted to every rise in living costs.

In addition, the unions should take the lead in organizing mass consumer committees composed of union members, housewives, working farmers and small shopkeepers. Unlike the profit-protecting OPA setup, these democratic consumer committees, guided by the needs of the masses, could proceed to enforce price-ceilings, ferret out black-marketeers, and expose Big Business profiteering.

Workers' Control

The action of the Japanese unions in taking over and operating a number of factories under workers' control, reported in this issue of The Militant, shows how life itself verifies the program of Marxism.

The N. Y. Times characterizes workers' control of production as "labor's new weapon." But this method of struggle is not so new in labor history. Marxists have advocated working-class control over production since the theory of scientific socialism was first formulated almost a century ago. This slogan was put into practice by the Russian workers after the overthrow of Czarism in 1917.

Following Marx and Lenin, the Transitional Program drafted by Leon Trotsky and adopted by the Founding Conference of the Fourth International in 1938, put forward this slogan as an indispensable means of labor's struggle. Workers' control of industry is incorporated into the program of the Socialist Workers Party and championed by The Militant.

The inability of decaying capitalist economy to survive without continuous catastrophic crises has become so obvious that even capitalist politicians recognize the necessity for some kind of "control" over production. Naturally, they all stop short of any effective measures of control because they dare not encroach upon the power and profits of Big Business.

The abolition of "business secrets" is a prerequisite for actual control of monopolist industry by the workers. The GM workers took a step in this direction when they demanded in their recent strike that the corporation open its books to inspection by the union.

Now advanced Japanese workers, confronted by the capitalist sabotage of production, have taken a further step in breaking the monopolist grip upon the national economy by instituting their own control in certain factories.

Thus the Trotskyist program shows the workers the way to combat capitalist anarchy and insecurity.

Two-Party System

CIO President Philip Murray in a press interview last week stated: "It is my own individual opinion that there will be no third party movement sponsored by the CIO. We'll content ourselves by working within the framework of the two-party system. We'll elect the best candidates and we'll support the cause of liberalism."

This, it will be recalled, is the position the CIO leaders took in 1944 and previous elections. In 1944 also, the CIO-PAC worked within the system of supporting only candidates of the two capitalist parties. The results of the election were then hailed as a "great progressive victory" by CIO-PAC leaders.

But what did it really lead to? Murray himself gave the answer at the recent CIO United Auto Workers convention when he complained we have "about the most reactionary Congress that we have had at any time during the last twelve years."

This process is evidently to be repeated again in 1946 if Murray and his associates have their way. The workers will be urged to vote for new "liberal" capitalist politicians in November 1946 who will then form the "most reactionary Congress" in 1947.

Labor will continue to be duped and betrayed until it breaks completely with "company unionism" in politics. It will stand politically helpless before the machinations of Big Business just so long as it is tied to the political machines, Democratic and Republican, of Wall Street.

The trade union militants must raise their voices vigorously against Murray's bankrupt political policy. American workers need a labor party to put their own representatives in office and to fight the political rule of the corporate profiteers exercised through the capitalist "two-party system."

Draft Extension

Wall Street imperialism's program for the militarization of America and permanent peacetime conscription was given an impetus last week in both the House and Senate.

Acting on one of the main points of Truman's war preparation program enunciated on Army Day, the House Military Affairs Committee on April 9 approved a bill to extend the draft for another nine months. On April 11, the Senate Military Affairs Committee endorsed a full year's extension.

The Truman Administration, backed by the military caste, is putting all possible pressure on Congress to speed a three-point program of a continuing Selective Service, universal compulsory military training, and unification of the armed forces.

Both Democrats and Republicans support the program for Prussianizing the American people in readiness for a World War III against the Soviet Union. But because of tremendous popular opposition, Congress is attempting to slip the program over in a more piecemeal fashion.

As the N. Y. Times, April 14, admitted: ". . . Because the draft is a touchy issue in an election year Congress has handled it gingerly." Senators and Representatives seeking reelection fear to arouse too great a resentment in their constituencies by going all-out for permanent militarism—until after the votes are counted next November.

Thus both houses are trying to create the impression, by their time limitations on draft extension, that it is only a "temporary" measure. This is clearly the purpose of the House limitation of nine months. Congressmen cynically keep in mind that the original Selective Service Act was also passed as a "temporary wartime" measure.

Also with an eye to the elections, members of the House have attached several amendments to the pending draft extension bill which would keep the draft machinery and laws intact but limit their operation until after the elections.

The House on April 13 approved amendments to "suspend" inductions between May 15 and October 15 and to fix a minimum age limit of 20 years for future inductees. Selective Service would remain and the age-limit could be lowered again whenever Congress chooses to claim an "emergency."

The American people should not be fooled by the apparent reluctance of Congress to push through Truman's full militarist program at this time. They should resist by every organized means the extension of the draft in any form.

Today, Congress wants only the "finger" of draft extension. Tomorrow, it will snatch ruthlessly at the whole "arm." For American imperialism is bent on nothing less than domination of the globe through overwhelming military force and another World War.

READ "FOURTH INTERNATIONAL"
Trotskyist Theoretical Magazine

"Isn't that child wearing an outrageous costume for Easter Sunday?"

Workers BOOKSHELF

The Militant has just received the first issue of **The New African**, the official monthly organ of the West African National Secretariat, dated March 1946. The publication of this paper is an expression of the growing movement for African unity and freedom from imperialist oppression and exploitation.

The New African, in its statement on policy, declares that it stands "not only for equality and justice in every respect, but for complete and absolute independence for Africa and her teeming millions of indigenous population. Nothing short of the above will give us any satisfaction."

The publication points out that no nation in this world has ever attained independence as a gift. Thus, it states, "we are resolved that the time is come when we too, as a people, should no longer sit in complacency awaiting the pleasure of our taskmasters to liberate us. With this realization in view, we have decided to dedicate our whole lives to the cause of this great struggle and never to look back until the goal is reached."

IRRECONCILABLE

The credo of the publication is set forth in the unassailable premise that: "Imperialism and colonial liberation are two irreconcilable opposites; a compromise between them is impossible. The death of the one is the life of the other." It states that without political independence the talk of economic independence is "mere waste of time."

What **The New African** and the West African National Secretariat stand for are listed as follows:

1. The complete liquidation of the colonial system.

2. ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE FOR ALL WEST AFRICA.

3. The right of peoples everywhere to organize trade unions, cooperative societies, farmers' organizations without the shackles of imperialist officialdom.

4. The industrialization of West Africa including technical and scientific knowledge.

The West African states that it opposes any form of reactionary nationalism in West Africa, and any form of opportunism and reformism in matters affecting the political and economic destiny of West Africa.

"In order for a people to act politically," states **The New African**, "there must be a political concept. Such a concept must be concretized by means of a united front organization. The mission of the West African National Secretariat, therefore, is to maintain, sustain and push forward the national struggle for West African National Unity and Absolute Independence."

In a call for action, the paper declares: "Today, the people of West Africa find themselves at the dawn of a new era. This new era is one of action, to combat all forms of imperialism and colonial exploitation. In this era the progressive elements of West Africa are confronted with one and only one urgent task—the task of achieving national unity and Absolute Independence for all West Africa.

"This can be achieved only through mass organization and the awakening of political consciousness. Great political changes are the work of principles; they are not the work of bayonets and atomic bombs. Principles alone, when diffused among a people, however oppressed, manifest their right to freedom and liberty. The test of faith is action, and thought and action represent an integral concept of man's struggle for freedom."

The Militant takes this opportunity of notifying the advanced workers and colored people in this country of **The New African**, which announces that it "goes forth fearlessly to inspire the youths of Africa for definite political action, and arouse in them a burning desire for freedom, as well as bitterness against imperialism. The African today is neither young nor old. He is just new, and his voice is the voice of the Awakened African."

Congressmen At Work

When the Navy carries out its experiment with the atom bomb in May to find out whether the vast new source of energy will destroy $450,000,000 worth of ships anchored in a Pacific lagoon, a lot of Congressmen intend to get in on the show. So far only "60 places on an observation ship for Members of Congress," have been provided, according to Representative Izac of California, but "I imagine that if there are more that want to go, they will take care of us . . . I am hopeful that every Member of Congress can go."

Naturally the expensive junket won't be without its hardships. "You can see that it will be quite a problem to subsist a great number of people out on Kwajelein or on some of the other atolls where we have no facilities of any kind, not even refrigeration, except what we take out there."

However, the spectacle will be worth the hardships. Everything is being arranged to reveal with scientific exactitude how destructive the atom bomb is at various distances. The ships, many of them brand new, are going to be placed 300 yards apart, instead of close together, declared Izac: "It would not do any good if you had a chain reaction that swept down on all of the ships and made them disintegrate." Nevertheless there is still a sporting chance the whole $450,000,000 worth of public property will disappear in one big flash and a column of smoke.

No item is being overlooked in this lavish show, "On the airplane carriers there will be some airplanes," said Representative Vinson of Georgia, "and on the American battleships there will be a certain number of tanks

and a certain amount of Army equipment."

Granger of Utah made clear to anyone who might feel queasy about bloodshed that everything was going to be strictly humane in the experiment. "I understand that instead of having sailors and admirals they are going to have goats." Then to reassure those anxious to cover every angle in the test, he added: "But at least there will be some type of life on board the ships."

The first test will be the explosion of an atom bomb in the air over the $450,000,000 fleet. If anything remains afloat after this disintegrating blast, they will then explode another bomb right down on the surface of the water. Then in a year or so when they have worked out the technique, they plan a third test, exploding the atom bomb under water.

Izac enthusiastically described the third test: "As you all can surmise, the deeper in the water we explode this bomb the more destructive the force. If you can get that bomb down at a mile depth in the ocean you will have perhaps a thousand times more disastrous results for the ships that are caught in effective radius or cone. Therefore, of course, we must endeavor to put that bomb down as low as we can . . ."

Miller of Nebraska felt that the whole experiment was not without its hasards—at least enough to put zest into the spectacle. "It is my understanding that bombs can now be created that will do 10,000 times the damage the one did at Hiroshima.

"I also talked to a scientist recently who thought that perhaps the exploding of the bomb under water ought to be delayed . . . He says there is a possibility that the hydrogen element of the water might be set loose so that you might send this world off into a blazing star. Perhaps Congressmen, judges, and newspaper men are not ready to go off just yet in a fiery furnace. It is at least something for the world to think about."

However, added this Representative, "The information that comes from this test will prove valuable and it might even prove, Mr. Chairman, that battleships in the future are obsolete."

(To be continued.)

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PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

Government Agencies Foster Jim Crow

While it is difficult for most veterans to find decent jobs, it is almost impossible for veterans of racial minority groups, regardless of their qualifications, to obtain anything but the most menial labor. Not only do private employers discriminate against Negro and other veterans, but government agencies follow the same vicious policies.

Moreover, according to surveys conducted by the American Council on Race Relations and the Urban League, the United States Employment Service, the Veterans Administration and other federal, state and local government agencies are actually encouraging discrimination and segregation.

Albert Deutsch, summing up the surveys in the April 8 PM, states that they "reveal mounting instances of Jim Crow barriers officially raised against Negro vets trying to obtain jobs, homes, schooling and business loans."

Here are a few examples of the discrimination practiced by government agencies as revealed by the Council's report.

In many cities the USES, a federal agency, follows a more brazen discriminatory policy than local agencies.

The USES office in Houston, Texas, following the Jim Crow practices of the south, segregates Negro and white applicants. The office reserved for "whites only" is large, furnished with chairs, and well-ventilated. Negro veterans must enter the building by a side door, go into a dingy office that also serves as a storeroom, and stand in line while awaiting their turn.

In cities such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, Houston, Nashville and Atlanta, Negro and other veterans of racial minorities "are met with cold politeness, ridicule or general hostility by USES officials . . ."

USES Won't Send Negro Applicants

An interviewer in the St. Paul, Minn., office admitted that in many cases, the USES refused to send qualified jobless Negro veterans to fill reported vacancies.

Following a policy typical of many other USES offices, the St. Louis office completely ignores any skills acquired by Negro veterans. They are asked what they did before they entered the Army and then put back in the same menial job classification.

Americans of Japanese ancestry were told on applying for jobs at the Seattle USES: "You boys might as well apply for unemployment compensation; there are no jobs for you."

The Council's report shows that this is a well-established policy. A clerk in the San Antonio, Texas, office of the USES said: "The placement department seems to do nothing but send" Negro and Mexican-American veterans "over to file unemployment compensation claims."

Training Not Given Minorities

In many cities on-the-job and apprenticeship training, to which they are supposedly entitled by the GI Bill, are denied veterans of racial minorities.

While veterans of minority groups are hardest hit by the housing shortage and are forced into the worst dwellings, they are generally barred from emergency housing projects.

The Council's survey makes it clear that federal agencies, far from trying to stop discrimination and segregation, give the practice added impetus by their own policies and practices.

Men of racial minorities were told on being drafted into the Army and Navy that after they defeated Nazism, with its theories of racial superiority, they would enjoy racial equality. But on their return, instead of the promised "new world a' comin", they are hit by the same old vicious practices of discrimination.

Vets' "Reconversion" From Heroes To "Bums"

Two young, jobless ex-servicemen stood before Magistrate Alex Pisciotta in Long Island City Court on April 13. One of the defendants was Stephen Grattano, 22 years old of Brooklyn, a former infantryman who served in Italy and Germany. The other was Michael Szewczyk, 23, also of Brooklyn, a former marine, who fought at Iwo Jima and in the Solomons. Both had fulfilled their assignments to help win the war for "democracy," the "four freedoms," and "prosperity."

What was their crime? Both men pleaded guilty to charges of lighting and smoking a cigarette in the Queens Plaza Station of the Independent Line subway.

The Magistrate, a former army major, sentenced the two men to pay fines of $3 each, or a day in jail. Both men said they didn't have the money to pay the fines.

Then this Magistrate, who came back from a cushy job in the army to a cushy job in civil life, lectured the boys and admonished them not to be "choosy" about taking jobs at hunger pay. Said he:

"Why aren't you working?"

Szewczyk, jobless since last October, replied: "Well, the only jobs we could find paid $20 or $25 a week, and that's not enough."

Grattano, unemployed since his discharge in December, added that the only job which had been offered to him was the one he had before he entered the service in a box factory at $25 a week. "That's not enough to support my parents," he explained.

The well-heeled Magistrate told them they were too "choosy." Then he laid down the law. "You come into this court and expect to be commended or given some sort of a citation because you are veterans." This, he said, only "discourages you from doing anything."

Szewczyk, who "found a few stray dollars" in his pocket, paid his fine and was released. Grattano was detained until the end of the court day.

The ex-soldiers of World War I, who became the jobless bonus marchers of 1932, carried slogans in Washington reading: "Heroes in 1917 — Bums in 1932."

But this process of veteran "reconversion" is speedier today. Many of the World War II veterans can already carry slogans reading: "Heroes in 1945—Bums in 1946."

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WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant". Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Navy Gold Braid Privileges Reigned Even In Combat

Editor:

The letter of D. Kirke of Newark in the April 6 Militant on the caste system in Noumea, struck a familiar note. I remember the officer system there only too well.

Something that Kirke may not know about the Navy Club at Noumea was that it (the one behind Mob. 5) was built with funds diverted from the enlisted men's ships service profits. These profits were supposed to be used to build up recreational outlets for GIs. The chaplain who protested this diversion was later removed to another station. I remember that when my ship was there after the invasion of Palau, this officer club burned. The Mob. 5. corpsemen just stood around and laughed and laughed. They didn't lift a finger to put out the flames. Only the laugh was on them, for within a week bulldozers and CBs were pulled off needed construction work and started rebuilding the club.

ASSIGNMENT—DEATH

We took on a few replacements at Noumea that time and I learned some more about this hell-hole. One of the new men had done five days p. & p. (bread and water to you) for trying to write home criticizing the officer caste. Another corpsman had the job of making a trip into town every night with the station wagon to pick up the officers and nurses who were on drinking parties. One of the nurses who went out with a GI was transferred back to the States, and the GI was assigned to "special duties." This last is the term they gave to the extra hazardous pre-invasion jobs. It usually meant death and was a common form of punishment.

Noumea wasn't the only place where this sort of thing went on. I remember when I first hit the replacement depot at Espirito my first job was putting in a bamboo finish in the officer's club. The First-Class in charge said men had been working on the club for months. This was in 1944 when the pushes were being prepared and there was a real shortage of men.

And at Guam the caste system went a step farther. There they not only had the regular officers' clubs, but they had an Admirals' club. Only four stripers and above could get in. Of course, we wouldn't have resented these officers' clubs so much if any provisions for the enlisted men had been made.

But all we had was the so-called Fleet Recreation Landings. They would pick out the most barren part of an island, level off all the trees, put a fence and SPs around to keep the men from exploring the island, and then the Fleet GIs would be allowed to come ashore for four-hour periods. You would get two cans of warm beer and a walk in the broiling sun. Of course you could play baseball.

WORSE ABOARD

I think conditions were even worse on the ships. The men slept in the converted holds (there were 48 in my compartment) the officers in lavishly fitted staterooms, two to a compartment. While we ate dehydrated spuds, etc. the officers mess served fresh frozen strawberries and meat. Not only that but on my ship there were 20 Negro stewards for the 40 officers. Not bad, one servant for every two officers.

Every part of the superstructure which was fitted for sunbathing or recreation was declared "officers' country." And there were so many petty regulations for the enlisted men going on deck—hats squared, sleeves down, etc. etc.—that usually the men preferred to remain below decks in the steaming compartments. (The only part of the ship which was properly ventilated was the Officers' Mess. Even the sick bay lacked air conditioning. This resulted in the death of at least eight casualties in the Palau operation alone. At least one crew member, that I know of, died of heat exhaustion.)

There is some talk that conditions were more democratic in action. This may have been true in the army, but it wasn't in the navy. Even after a "kamikaze" wiped out the superstructure of our ship, the gold braids' first thought was of their privileges. While the rest of the crew was trying to get the ship in order for the run back to the States, the officers' only contribution was to rope off the best remaining section of the ship as "officers' country." They then took the stewards off the important job of clearing the wreckage, so that they could set up an officers' mess.

OFFICERS FLED

The regular Navy officers showed up the worst. Two old line Hospital Corps officers, who were directly responsible for getting the patients to safety in case of a hit, were the first to go over the side when an abandon ship order was given. The GIs organized and carried through the evacuation of patients on their own, and then turned and put out the fires. There were a few honorable exceptions among the gold braid, but on the whole their behavior was scandalous. Many of the GIs went over the side, too, it is true. But after all they weren't being paid for leading the defense of the ship.

The present investigation is a real farce. The question is not whether a caste system exists. Among the veterans I've met, the only question is where conditions were the worse, Europe or the Pacific, the army or the navy.

This is a long letter. But it's hard to stop once you get started on this subject. One could go on for hours relating incidents like the above.

Ed Davis,
Oakland, California

Another Generation

Our boots are on the endless roads
Our rifles at the slope,
For us there is no life tonight
For us there is no hope . . .
No sound can come from out the ranks
No clink of martial pack,
For us there is no armistice
No path to take us back . . .
We are the marching, marching men
Who tramp across the world
The Brotherhood of Soldier Dead
With banners wrapped and furled . . .
The silent, gaunt, and restless host
Who once again obeyed,
For bloody profits once more slain —
And thrice again . . . betrayed!

Eddie Dumaine

Protests Bring Indictment Of Scabs

A wave of indignant protests against George P. McNear president of the Toledo, Peoria and Western Railroad and his four company-armed thugs who murdered two unarmed pickets last February in Bloomington, Illinois, has finally resulted in the formal indictment of the four scabs for manslaughter. Left to right these are: Lewis Smith, Roy Dailey, Everett Parks and Raleigh Smith. The Railroad Brotherhood also demands indictment of union-buster President McNear, who hired the thugs but still goes scot-free.

Reprisals By Army Brass For All Who Forget Salute

Editor:

Much is being said on the army officer caste system these days, but not enough. Enough can never be said on this subject until something is done about it. And nothing will be done about it if it is left to the government and army to investigate the matter.

The "investigation", is being carried on now for the sole purpose of bolstering the rate of army enlistment, as the government is becoming split and uncertain on the draft question. If and when the draft bill is secure and the government is again sure of its military might, this question of the officer caste system will fade into the background and be forgotten until the next war.

I am one of those unfortunate guys who has seen much more of this officer caste than I would like to have seen, since eight years of my young life were spent inside the U. S. army. Thus I feel I am qualified to give my views on the subject and to point out some facts that will expose this stupid system of military lord and serf.

From the time one enters the army or any other military service he is taught that the officer is Lord and Master. The officer is always a gentleman and his conduct or orders cannot be questioned at any time regardless of their stupidity. You must always remember the officer is your superior in every way. To question his conduct, whether in a barroom or on the battlefield, will bring the wrath of the gods down on you in all its fury.

In 1943 the town of Tunis in North Africa was being used as a sort of rest camp for combat men who had earned a long-overdue rest. These men went to Tunis to have a good time and to forget the army for a while, they thought, but this didn't last long. The officers became very indignant because the men were having too much fun and didn't have time to salute them and show them the proper respect on the streets.

The officers raised a howl that was heard clear to Cairo. The Area Commander sent a company of M.P.s to Tunis with an ex-New York cop as Commanding Officer and Provost Marshal, with orders to correct this awful error of the enlisted men at once. The result was outrageous.

The system was for three or four M.P.s to stroll down the street with two officers slightly ahead of them. Every GI who failed to stop his merry-making at the approach of the officers, and stand at rugged attention and salute, was arrested and thrown into the lockup for the night.

No matter what time of day he was arrested, he had to stay in jail until the following morning when he was carried before the court.

The court consisted of one officer, usually one of the officers he had failed to salute the day before. This officer, without even hearing the soldiers' case, would cancel his leave of absence, fine him anywhere from $10 to $50 and send him back to his outfit with the recommendation to be courtmartialed by his Commanding Officer, for this great unforgivable sin of failing to salute a Second Louie.

These men after returning to their outfit usually received two weeks or more Company punishment or were sent back into combat immediately.

While in a hospital in Italy, a soldier told me his failure to salute his Commanding Officer had cost him a trip to the front line on the Anzio beachhead. Further, when the other men were relieved two weeks later, he was informed he was not to be relieved with them, but was given no reason for the action. The next day he stopped a piece of shrapnel with his neck. He will have a stiff neck the rest of his life because he forgot to salute his Commanding Officer. This is the army's unforgivable sin.

J. E.
New York City

Suggests Campaign Against Imperialist Atomic Bomb Race

Editor:

For a long time now Marxists have declared that the choice before us is that of socialism or barbarism. By this they have meant that capitalism has exhausted its progressive possibilities and that mankind must now proceed to socialism. With the advent of the atomic bomb, however, reversion to barbarism or even the total destruction of humanity has become a very real and distinct possibility.

Marxists can no longer repeat the old slogan in the serene presumption that socialism and not barbarism will finally prevail. They must seek working class action which will wrest this dangerous weapon from the hands of the capitalist class. The bourgeois politicians themselves are terrified by their own weapon, as witness their cries for international control and world government. But they are torn by their fears and their desire to use the weapon to gain diplomatic advantage. We cannot entrust the atomic bomb to their hands.

I suggest that **The Militant** initiate a campaign in the labor movement which would do the following things:

Urge the worker in the atomic bomb factories to quit work;

Demand that the United States government stop atomic bomb production at once;

Demand that the United States government destroy its entire stock pile of atomic bombs.

This campaign, if it were at all successful, would be sure to be met with the charge that it is disarming the United States in the face of other countries which are going ahead with atomic bomb research. To this it must be answered that an atomic bomb race can only mean the ruination or extinction of the American people as well as of the other peoples of the world and that the best way of stopping such a race is by the independent action of labor in all countries.

Such a campaign, then, should not be carried on in the spirit that atomic energy is the work of the devil, but that its use cannot be entrusted to the governments which have twice in two generations plunged the world into war.

On the part of Marxists this campaign could be part of a broader educational one showing that only international socialism could use atomic energy so that it liberates man by increasing industrial production.

I am enclosing $1 as a contribution to the **Militant's** fund campaign.

A Subscriber
Connecticut

Pioneer Notes

Many orders have come in this week for copies of the new pamphlet **Vigilante Terror In Fontana,** by Myra Tanner Weiss. This pamphlet was published by the Socialist Workers Party, Los Angeles Branch. The price is 10 cents.

The tragic story of the arson-murder of the O'Day H. Short family of Fontana California, as well as many other outrages perpetrated by vigilante terror groups against racial minorities in California is told here. But what makes the pamphlet especially valuable to worker-readers is that it does not simply set forth horrifying facts. It also presents a program of action with which this rampant vigilante destruction can be fought by organized labor. It is a pamphlet which should be read by every class-conscious worker.

• • •

Detroit had a good measure of success in selling Pioneer pamphlets at two meetings conducted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in that city. E. Brent writes:

"I thought you would like to know that three people went out to cover the NAACP meeting at which Walter White spoke on March 21. Quite a bit was sold. The sales were as follows: 53 copies of **A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow**; 18 of **Struggle for Negro Equality**; 5 of **Socialism on Trial** (the four pamphlets dealing with the Minneapolis Labor Case) and 2 of **Negroes in the Post-War World.**"

In her second letter E. Brent states:

"There was another NAACP meeting (the Youth Group) April 1. Senator Powell spoke. In spite of the street car strike there were about 400 people present. Comrades Logan, Mullot, Carli and I were there. Comrade Mullot passed out 340 Militants and quite a bit of literature was sold. Here are the figures: 53 copies of a Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow; 20 of Struggle for Negro Equality; 7 of Negroes in the Post-War World.

"We were sorry that the Fontana pamphlet did not arrive in time to be sold at the meeting, but **The Struggle for Negro Equality** did get there in time. We easily could have sold our whole order of 200 copies of **Vigilante Terror in Fontana** if we had had them."

• • •

Vigilante Terror in Fontana, by Myra Tanner Weiss, 10c.
A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow, by Charles Jackson, 10c.
The Struggle for Negro Equality, by Albert Parker and John Saunders, 10s.
Negroes in the Post-War World, by Albert Parker, 5c.

Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

Youth Group Activities

NEW YORK — The Trotskyist Youth Group meets at 116 University Place. Send name and address for information.

Sunday educational and discussion, 8 p.m., Chelsea Workers Center, 130 W. 23rd St.

Harlem: Every Monday, 8 p.m., class on "Fundamentals of Socialism," Dick Guerrero, instructor, 103 W. 110 St., R. 23.

Bronx: Youth class on "What Is Socialism," Thursday, 8 p.m., at 1034 Prospect Avenue.

• • •

BUFFALO — Militant Youth Club meets every Sunday, 7 p.m. Discussion, music, dramatics. Refreshments served. Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.

• • •

PHILADELPHIA—Youth Forums held every Saturday, 8 p.m. 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor.

• • •

LOS ANGELES — Write to SWP headquarters, 145 S. Broadway, for information on Youth Group activities.

• • •

Watch this column for further details on youth activities.

Notice To Subscribers

According to postal regulations your address is not complete unless it shows your postal zone number. For example: The Militant's zone number is New York 3, N. Y. The postal authorities are now insisting that this regulation be carried out in the mailing of The Militant. Check the wrapper in which The Militant is mailed to you and if the zone number is not included, be sure to send it to us at once to secure delivery of your paper.

Send your zone number to:

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MILITANT ARMY

Reports from literature agents on subscription renewal work and the large percentage of renewals obtained from readers prove concretely the role that **The Militant** has played in bringing to workers the kind of information unobtainable in any other newspaper.

• • •

Ruth Johnson of New York writes: "One of the most inspiring visits I've ever made to **Militant** subscribers came my way recently. The young woman who answered my knock invited me in enthusiastically. She told me that her husband who is in the service keeps a file of **Militant** clippings that she sends in letters to him every week."

He discusses them with his buddies, and has five of them convinced of the need for socialism. "Socialism's his whole life!" she said proudly, "He has a whole closetful of books on the subject."

When her husband is in town on furlough they read **The Militant** from beginning to end, then leave it on the subway and watch . . . "You know, people do pick it up every time! It really gratifies us so much to see them start to read it."

Both of them are looking forward to attending **Socialist Workers Party** meetings when he is discharged.

Then the young woman's mother, who is a militant socialist too, added: "Everybody should read **The Militant.** The workers need it."

• • •

From Philadelphia, we received this report on renewal work: "It's an inspiring experience to do renewal work" ran the conversation of one of our active comrades who then told this story to confirm her statement.

She had traveled out to the Negro "ghetto" section of town. A middle-aged woman answered her knock and welcomed the comrade in. In discussing the work of **The Militant** and the kind of program it fights for, the comrade presented our basic fundamental ideas. She spoke about the Fontana fire outrage and what our comrades on the west coast were doing about it, also about the Ferguson case.

The subscriber listened very attentively. She renewed her subscription, bought a number of pamphlets and urged our comrade to return again on another visit at which time she would be able to further her aid to the Socialist Workers Party.

Then the subscriber's mother who had listened closely to the discussion said: "I'm an old woman, 93 years of age, and I may die tonight. But I can die in peace knowing that there are brave and courageous fighters like you in the struggle for a better world."

• • •

Bea Allen of New York reported this interesting incident: "Another comrade and myself have been distributing **The Militant** at membership meetings of the AFL Seafarer's International Union. As we give out the paper we tell the seamen to read the 'Notes Of A Seamen' column.

"One of the seamen on hearing this remark started to mimic us. A seaman right behind him tapped him on the shoulder and said very seriously: 'You really should read that column. It's good!'"

• • •

Branches of the **Socialist Workers Party** are maintaining a high rate of new as well as renewal subscriptions. The top scoring sections for this week are headed by the Boston Branch which has been consistently high these past few weeks:

Boston—49 six-month, 2 one-year new subscriptions; 4 six-month renewals.

New York—15 six-month and 4 one-year new subscriptions; 5 six-month and 2 one-year renewals plus 2 one-year combinations to **The Militant** and **Fourth International.**

San Francisco—2 six-month and 1 one-year new sub as well as 18 six-month and 7 one-year renewals.

Seattle—3 six-month new in addition to 2 six-month and 5 one-year renewals.

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AKRON — Visit **The Militant** Club, 405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 East Market St., open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p. m.; also Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 to 9:30. Current events discussion Wednesday evenings.

ALLENTOWN - BETHLEHEM — Open meeting every Friday, 8 p.m., at **Militant Labor Forum,** S. E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Allentown.

Public Forums—First Sunday each month, 2:15 p.m.

BOSTON—Office at 30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays from noon until 5 p.m.; Wednesday and Fridays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

BUFFALO — Every Saturday night, **Current Events Discussion and Open House;** Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO — Visit SWP, 160 N. Wells, R. 317. Open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 7562.

Classes every Wednesday, 7:30 and 9:00 p.m.

SOUTH SIDE: 354 W. 63rd. Meetings Thursday evening.

CLEVELAND — Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall 1446 E. 82nd St.

DETROIT—Forums on topical questions every Sunday, 3 p.m. at 6108 Linwood. Office open daily 10 to 6. Phone Tyler 7-6267.

FLINT — Open meetings every Sunday, 8 p.m. at YWCA, First St. and Harrison

HARTFORD—For information, write P. O. Box 905.

KANSAS CITY — SWP Branch meets Saturday, 8 p.m. Rm. 203, Studio Bldg., 418 E. 9th St., for study and discussion.

LOS ANGELES — Visit SWP headquarters, 145 S. Broadway, Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone VAndyke 7936.

SAN PEDRO, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

MILWAUKEE — Visit the Milwaukee SWP branch, 424 E. Wells St., evenings from 7:30.

MINNEAPOLIS—Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Forum every Sunday, 3:30.

NEWARK—Branch meeting every Friday at 423 Springfield Ave., at 8:30. Reading room and office open Mondays-Thursdays, 4 to 10 p.m.

Militant Readers' Discussion Group Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

NEW YORK — CENTRAL, 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149.

Sat., 4:30 p.m., Tues, 7:30, rehearsal of Trotskyist chorus. **Militant** readers invited.

Apr. 21, 8:15—"Why A Million Homeless?".

HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St., Rm. 28. MO. 2-1866.

Sat., Apr. 20—Social.

Sun., Apr. 21, 7:30 p. m. "Negro Revolts in U. S." Mitchell Inghram.

BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101.

Friday Class., 8 p.m. "State and Revolution."

Sun, Apr. 21, 8:30 p.m., "India's Struggle for Freedom."

BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433.

Thurs., Apr. 18—"Is MacArthur Bringing Democracy to Japan?" 8:30.

CHELSEA: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434.

Branch meetings, Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.

Fri., Apr. 19 — "Big Steal — The Sale of Govt. Property."

Sat., Apr. 20 — Spaghetti Dinner 7 to 8:30, followed by dancing.

YORKVILLE: Discussion Group, 146 E. 84 St. Meets second and fourth Fridays.

OAKLAND, Cal.—Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410 - 11th St. For information write to P.O. Box 1351

PHILADELPHIA — SWP Headquarters, 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open forums Friday, 8 p.m., current topics.

Sunday classes, 7 p.m., "Basic Training in Principles of Marxism" and "Historical Materialism."

Office and bookshop open every day.

PITTSBURGH—Militant Reading Room, Seely Bldg., 5905 Penn Ave., corner Penn. Ave & Beatty St., E. Liberty. Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6:30 to 9:30. Sat. 2-6, Sunday, April 21, at 7:30.

"Stalinist Turn & USSR."

PORTLAND, Ore. — Visit the SWP headquarters, 134 S. W Washington, 3rd Floor. Tel ATwater 3992. Open 1 to 4 p.m., daily except Sunday, and 6 to 8, Tuesday, Friday.

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READING, Pa.—Militant Labor Forum, Market Bldg., 10th and Penn St., Room 202. Public forums every 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Headquarters open Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 to 10 p.m., also Fridays from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO — Visit the San Francisco School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., corner of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor; open from 12 noon to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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TOLEDO—Forums every Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., 213 Michigan St. Open evenings, 7-9.

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Over One-Third Of $15,000 Goal Is Reached In Fourth Week Of "Militant" Fund Campaign

By Justine Lang
Campaign Director

With real revolutionary will and spirit, comrades, friends and **Militant** readers responded enthusiastically to our call to reach $5,000 by this week.

In fact, the $1,000 weekly quota needed in order to reach our $15,000 goal by June 15 has again been oversubscribed. This week, $1,107.91 was sent in. This makes a total of 5,077.08 at the end of the fourth week of **The Militant** Sustaining Fund Drive. With 34 per cent of our goal already achieved, there is every indication that our halfway mark will also be reached in advance of schedule.

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party are demonstrating their solid support of this **Militant** Fund Drive by fulfilling their quotas as rapidly as possible. The average percentage at this point in the campaign is 30 per cent. Three sections, the New York Youth, Portland and Rochester, have already completed their quotas and the two first have oversubscribed their original goal.

In addition, 13 branches are above the average percentage ranging from 33 per cent up to 80.

The New York Trotskyist Youth Group is still in top place nationally, having gone over its quota by 107 per cent. **Grace Wayne, Militant** Campaign Fund Director adds: "We intend to maintain our top place right up to June 15, the closing date of the drive!"

Any challenges to that ambition?

A great source of satisfaction to us is the enthusiasm with which our **Militant** readers, friends and sympathizers are rallying behind this Sustaining Fund Drive, as revealed in some of the mail quoted below:

"I'M WITH YOU!"

L. Lynn of Minneapolis: "At the entrance to our headquarters, we have **The Militant** in a box by the door where it may be obtained free of charge. There is one friend who picks up **The Militant** every week from this newsstand and periodically he comes up to the headquarters, presses a fifty cent piece into my hand and usually makes the comment, 'I get **The Militant** downstairs, I want to pay you for it. I'm with you, but I'm too old to be of any help.'"

"When the first notice of the **Militant** Sustaining Fund Campaign appeared in **The Militant**, he came up to the headquarters and told me he had read about the campaign. 'I'm on relief', he said, 'and I don't have much money, but here's a dollar for the **Militant** Fund.'"

From Philadelphia: "When approached to contribute to the **Militant** Fund Campaign, a reader of **The Militant** said: 'I'm a poor man, and have very little money. However, for a movement like yours I'm willing to sacrifice to the extent of giving $5 to carry on the good work of **The Militant.**'"

Jeannette Kirk of Detroit writes: "To encourage comrades to pay on their pledges and obtain contributions so that we may send the money in as quickly as possible, we have initiated some friendly competition between the East and West Side Branches. We have a large poster with a thermometer for each branch showing the amount of money collected by each, and in the center of the poster a larger thermometer registering our progress toward completing our assigned quota for Detroit as a whole.

"Money collected from sympathizers, shopmates, and friends through contributions on the **Militant** Collection Lists will be credited to the branch's scores on the poster.

"New comrades who have never participated before in our campaigns for funds or subscriptions are doing very well. The spirit of friendly competition has stimulated their interest in the drive as well as the interest of the older comrades."

From Buffalo, Bill Gray writes: "In addition to the Buffalo branch in this area, we also have a new branch, Lackawanna. We think it is proper that the designation on the scoreboard be changed to Buffalo-Lackawanna in order to give due credit to the latter branch. The comrades in Lackawanna are doing their share in raising the funds and should receive recognition for their contribution."

We're quite pleased to record the addition, and wish to commend the respective comrades for achieving 56 per cent of their quota to date.

Among the contributions received last week from various sections of the country was a $1 contribution from Mrs. Peace of Philadelphia who requested that we send her three **Militant** Collection Lists so that she could circulate these among her friends and solicit funds for our drive. I. Harrison of New York sent us $3 and S. Cooper of New York sent us $2 on the "I Want To Help!" coupon.

A friend in Montana sent $10 with the added note: "We are enclosing $10 toward the drive—wish we could send more."

We hereby express our appreciation for these and other donations, and hope our readers will follow the above examples and aid the **Militant** Sustaining Fund Drive.

We have 34 per cent of our goal behind us. Let's make the half way mark in record time!

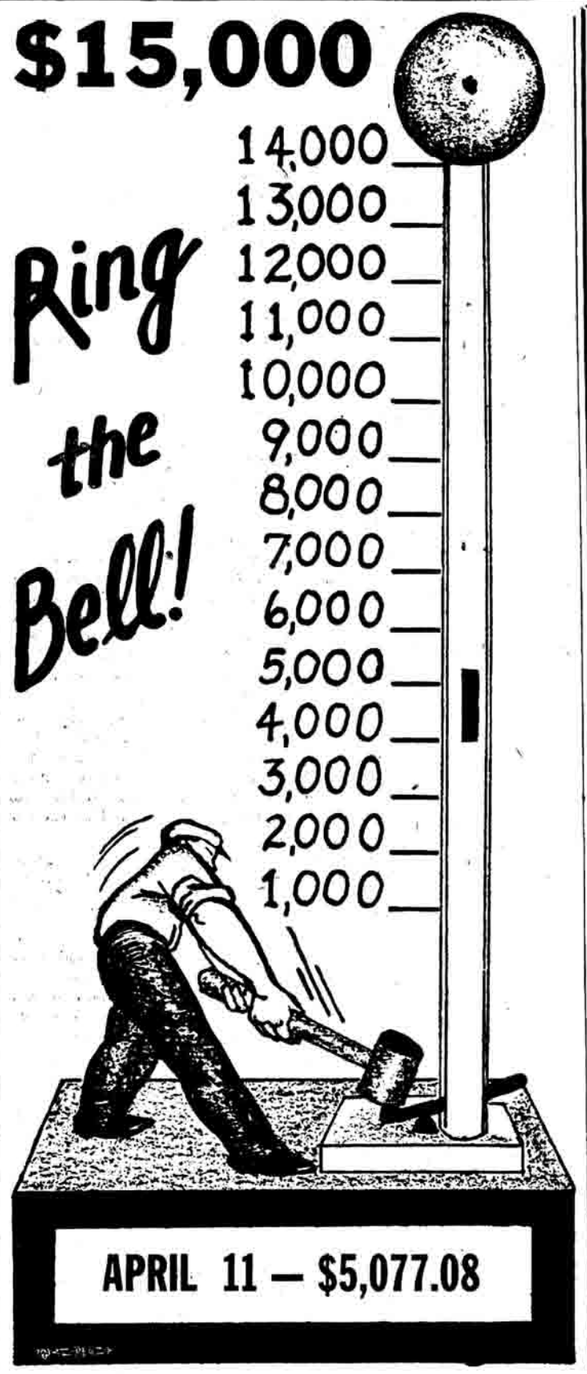
Vet Sends $2 To 'Militant'

Campaign Director,
The Militant

Enclosed is a $2 postal note for the **Militant** Sustaining Fund. I am an occasional newsstand purchaser of your paper, and read it even years before I was in the armed forces.

I think it is a fine paper.

S. C.



SCOREBOARD

	QUOTA	PAID	PER-CENT
NEW YORK YOUTH	50	53.65	107
PORTLAND	25	26	104
ROCHESTER	50	50	100
Baltimore	25	20	80
Minneapolis	500	352	70
Connecticut	100	57.50	58
Buffalo-Lackawanna	500	281.50	56
San Francisco	1000	551	55
St. Louis	50	25	50
Boston	400	185	48
St. Paul	250	115	46
Youngstown	400	157	39
New York City	3500	1341.62	38
Milwaukee	100	37.60	38
Flint	100	35	35
Newark	300	100	33
Detroit	1250	343	28
Akron	300	82	27
Allentown-Bethlehem	75	20	26
Cleveland	250	65	26
Los Angeles	2000	528	26
Philadelphia	500	123.56	24
Chicago	1500	351.85	23
Bayonne	75	15	20
Seattle	500	63	13
Los Angeles Youth	75	8.75	12
Reading	100	7.50	8
Philadelphia Youth	25	5.55	6
Cincinnati	25	0	0
Pittsburgh	100	0	0
San Diego	100	0	0
Toledo	200	0	0
General	575	76	13
TOTAL	15,000	5077.08	34

New Lackawanna SWP Branch Holds First Public Meeting

LACKAWANNA, Apr. 3—The newly formed Lackawanna Branch of the Socialist Workers Party held its first public meeting here in Croatian Hall tonight. Comrade Bill Gray, the Buffalo area organizer, delivered an eloquent and inspiring address on "A Fighting Program For American Labor."

Comrade Gray's opening remarks on the drabness and insecurity of life under capitalism hit the mark with this audience of steel workers. And his fiery exhortation to fight these capitalist evils in the struggle for revolutionary socialism found an enthusiastic response.

There was a lively question and answer period in which the building of the party was discussed and compared to the beginnings of the union.

One steel worker explained how 10 years ago his whole plant of 11,000 men couldn't boast as many union members as there were in Croatian Hall listening to the Socialist Workers Party program tonight. This, he said, was a good indication of the firm, revolutionary optimism shared by all the Lackawanna members and their friends.

The Lackawanna branch plans more open meetings in the future.

Imperialist-Controlled Agencies Haggle As Starvation Spreads

By Felix Morrow

ATLANTIC CITY, Mar. 29—The UNRRA Council, delegations from 48 nations, in its March 15-29 session here, debated ways and means of feeding the 500 millions threatened by starvation.

But they were the debates of an impotent body. For whatever was proposed here, the actual decision lay elsewhere.

But decisive power over the food of the world was not here. It is in the hands of a three-nation body; the Combined Food Board of the United States, the United Kingdom (Britain), and Canada.

When UNRRA figures are sent to the Combined Food Board, they are arbitrarily revised downward—unless the particular country happens to be a colony or semi-colony of the Anglo-Saxon empire or requires special consideration at this moment for diplomatic purposes.

As the retiring Director-General of UNRRA, Governor Herbert H. Lehman, stated here March 22:

"UNRRA submits requirements to the Combined Food Board on behalf of a considerable number of receiving countries . . . UNRRA has absolutely no knowledge of the . . . standards used by the Combined Food Board when it makes final recommendations for allocations. Thus UNRRA is unable to ensure any country dependent for food on UNRRA that it is getting fair treatment . . .

"It is imperative that each allocation of the Combined Food Board should be made public and at the same time the extent to which that allocation meets reasonable standards of consumption. It seems to me inevitable that suspicion and misunderstandin will grow in those countries whose people are threatened with starvation if they are not given information by the Combined Food Board which indicates the extent to which help has been given to other countries. If we believe in a concept of a United Nations and in sharing equally the burden of this present emergency, then it is essential that the actions of each government should be known publicly."

Encouraged by Lehman, the Chinese delegate, Dr. T. F. Tsiang, "confessed his anger against the Combined Food Board." Of the rice available from the U. S. for the first quarter of 1946, the Board had allocated to China only 17 thousand tons, or one-third of the amount allocated to Cuba or the Philippines. Thus U. S. imperialism demonstrated that it is better to live in American colonies than in China.

The same lesson was driven home by British imperialism. All China is to get during 1946 only twice as much grain as the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. Said Dr. Tsiang: "The Combined Food Board has allocated none of Burma's rice (formerly one of China's main sources) to China, while rice from Siam (another principal source) was allocated as follows: British Malaya, 58 thousand tons; Hong Kong, 30 thousand tons; British Borneo, 9 thousand tons; Netherlands East Indies, 55 thousand tons; Philippines, 8 thousand tons; UNRRA for China, 18 thousand tons."

The Combined Food Board's allocations in turn dictate the expenditures of UNRRA. As a result, British-controlled Greece is to receive $27 per capita, while China is to receive $1.25 per capita. In the light of the reports of Greek suffering, one can begin to imagine the plight of the Chinese and Indian masses in the hundreds of millions!

The Combined Food Board gave short shrift to the Polish resolution recommending that UNRRA allocations be accepted as final by the CBF. It likewise turned down—privately expressing astonishment at his gall—Lehman's proposal that allocations be made on the basis of the 1935-39 per capita consumption in each country.

Playing favorites has meant not only giving food to some, but also deliberately not making possible food exports from some countries which had surpluses. Two striking examples are Argentina and Ethiopia.

Lehman finally got up courage enough to announce that he was sending a special mission to Argentina to buy grain for UNRRA. And this was only after Peron's victory had forces the U. S. State Department to abandon its previous policy toward Argentina. As recently as March 3, the **N. Y. Times** reported that grain was burned as a fuel substitute in Argentina, which had been prevented by the Truman administration from buying fuels here or chartering tankers to bring oil from Mexico.

On March 22 UNRRA delegates were handing around a letter appearing in the **New York Times** that day, from D. A. Talbot, an American, editor of the Ethiopian Review published by the government of that country. It reported:

"Ethiopian grain is rotting while Europe starves, and there is a great reservoir of meats and fats which could be gathered in.

"One of the reasons why Ethiopian surpluses are not utilized is purely political . . . the desire of certain of Ethiopia's neighbors to check her economic development and keep her a perpetual pawn of European diplomacy . . . The purchase of Ethiopian surpluses would aid considerably in providing the government with revenue . . ."

But British imperialism does not want the Ethiopian government to win such relative freedom of action. Hence Ethiopian grain rots.

To ease up the Anglo-U. S. stranglehold, Lehman proposed broadening of the Combined Food Board. In particular he demanded representation for UNRRA and the Soviet Union.

But the Russian delegation was cold to the proposal. As the March 21 **Daily Worker** reports, "Neither the USSR nor Ukraine delegates replied to the proposal."

The reason is plain enough. Each member-nation of the CBF provides full figures on its food production.

But even the two "independent" Soviet republics, the Ukraine and Byelorussia, devastated areas receiving UNRRA aid, have refused to provide the CBF with figures. A restricted CBF report, given only to delegates, adduced this refusal — all other receiving countries provide figures — as the reason for difficulties in arriving at food allocations for those countries.

Here, as in every other sphere of "United Nations" activity, the Kremlin is confronted with an insoluble dilemma: how to cooperate while at the same time refusing its allies the data which they themselves offer to exchange with Russia.

On this dilemma Lehman's proposal to broaden the Combined Food Board foundered.

(This is the second of two articles on the UNRRA session. The first appeared here last week.)

CONNECTICUT Militant Readers!

Discussion meetings of Militant readers will soon be held regularly in Connecticut. For information, write to:

Box 905
Main Post Office
Hartford, Conn.

I Want To Help!

To **The Militant:**
116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

I like The Militant because it tells the truth. I know that it depends entirely upon workers like myself for support. That is why I want to do my part in contributing to **The Militant's** $15,000 Fund Campaign.

☐ I enclose $..... toward your work.

☐ I want a contribution-list to circulate among my friends and fellow-workers, so they can help The Militant.

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NEW YORK
Chelsea Branch
SPAGHETTI DINNER
Prepared by the famous Spaghetti Chef Art Sharon
From 8 to 9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, April 20
Music, dancing afterward
130 West 23rd St.

The Things We Make
By V. Grey

Workers puzzle over the question: "When we can produce so much in the shop, how is it that we ourselves get so little? Certainly, we produce hundreds of times more wealth with the factories than our great-grandfathers did without them. But the things we produce do not belong to us. Somehow we can never buy back what we ourselves make. Sometimes we produce things that then rust in warehouses or rot on the ground. Sometimes all we produce goes up in battlesmoke. Sometimes we are idle and the factories remain idle too! Why?"

These questions can be answered in two sentences: The world's great productive system is owned by a little handful of people who run it for their own profit and not for people's use. And it can run at full steam and **keep running only** when society as a whole owns and operates it.

Yes, that is the answer. But how do we **know** it is the answer? We know the present system is rotten and useless by our own experience with depressions and wars. But we did not arrive at the above socialist answer through hopelessness and despair. The answer is the product of a reasoning process. It is a reasoning that conscious fighters for socialism should follow. It is a rather long chain of reasoning that Marx begins by analyzing the things we make in the factory.

Look around you in the house, and you will see the products made by us in the factories. Chairs, tables, sewing machine, ice box, oil stove, cook stove, sink, toilet and bathtub—all factory products. Now look out the window. The lamp post, the cars and trucks on the street, the street itself—asphalt, car tracks, concrete or bricks, are factory products too.

Even the food you eat was canned and preserved in the factory. And before that it was planted, cultivated and harvested by factory-made machinery. Workers, just like ourselves, make all these things—food, clothing, shelter and all. They make them in tremendous quantities in great factories.

So if we are to follow Marx's reasoning let us begin by looking at these factory products. The things we make—and the ways under which we make them—turn us into what we are.

The first thing we learn about these things is that just looking at them does not tell us very much. Many of them look just like they did ages before the factories made them. Factories, as we have seen, are something new under the sun. And the factory worker is too. But many of the things we make in our new way were made by different methods thousands of years ago. Bread, for instance, used to be baked by slaves before the Bible was written or the pyramids were built.

Nevertheless, bread and other things we make today are very different from the same things made before the factory was born. Why? Precisely because we make them so differently. That is where the difference arises. A given thing could have been made by ancient slaves, by a shepherd girl in the medieval hills, by a semi-craftsman in a cotter's hut, or in a billion dollar factory with a hundred thousand pairs of hands whisking it along to the salesroom or warehouse. This difference in the method of production does actually stamp its difference on the product. But we discover this only if we probe beneath the surface.

Just by looking at it you might not think bread has changed very much in the last ten thousand years. But it has just the same. Capitalist bread contains something that primitive bread was quite innocent of. Capitalist bread has **market value.** For example, a loaf of bread contains 12 cents "worth" of value.

What the Difference Is

What's the difference? you might ask. Slaves' bread filled the slave's stomach so he could work for his master, capitalists' bread fills the worker's stomach so he can work for his boss. Both loaves are things to eat. Why get so technical? The bread must have been worth 12 cents ten thousand years ago—if there had been 12 cents lying around somewhere.

But the 12 cents is something you **exchange** the bread for. If you could only make one loaf a day, and nobody else could do any better, you'd be a fool to exchange it for 12 cents or even $12 because you wouldn't have any bread left to eat. You wouldn't produce it to sell in the first place. The idea of selling it or trading it would never enter your primitive head.

Besides, what would you do with the 12 cents anyway? Suppose you needed a couple of razor blades. Well, if they were made at that time it would have taken longer to make one than to use one up—so who would have one to sell you? Your 12 cents would be no good, even if it were "lying around."

The bread, too, would be "no good" from the point of view of the 12 cents. Or take it in its wider aspect: **exchange** could not exist. We thus see value expressed in exchange. And until there are enough goods exchanged—and made to be exchanged—there can't be any idea of money or exchange value.

Under primitive conditions the loaf of bread is life itself. It's produced to feed the producer. It's as much a part of him as his big toe. And he would no more think of selling it.

Under capitalism, the loaf of bread, unlike a big toe, is quite detachable. It can be sold. In fact all the bread is produced for just that purpose: to be sold. Instead of the baker being thought crazy if he sold his bread, he would be thought crazy if he did not. Under capitalism the goods **must** be sold—or the producers starve.

These goods—all the billions of units of factory products, all produced for a market—are called commodities. Karl Marx begins his famous book on "Capital" with the analysis of a commodity.

Next Week—What Is A Commodity?

NEW YORK
Spring School Opens April 29
"Advanced Marxist Political Economy"
Instructor: SAM MARCY
Sessions: Monday evenings, 7 to 8:30

"Theory Of The Permanent Revolution"
Instructor: DAVID L. WEISS
Sessions: Monday evenings from 8:30 to 10

The Militant Labor School
116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

New Belgian Government Shaky

By E. Germain

(Special to The Militant)

BRUSSELS, April 1—After six weeks of governmental crisis, Belgium now has a new government. For how long? That's the first question we must ask, knowing that the coalition of the workers' parties and the Liberal party, on which the new Van Acker cabinet is based, has a majority of only two seats in the Senate and can therefore be accidentally overthrown at a moment's notice.

WHY NOT GOVERNMENT OF "NATIONAL UNION?"

As early as the formation, and speedy fall, of the Spaak government, it had become clear that the four parties were preparing the formation of a new "National Union." The Socialist Party leadership had accepted the new formula. The Liberals rushed to approve it. The Stalinists themselves had stated that the most important thing was "that the Communist Party should not be excluded from the government," thus indicating that they were ready to ally themselves with the "deepest reaction," with the Christian Socialist Party. And finally, the latter also appeared to accept.

However, the conditions it laid down caused the failure of Van Acker's attempts to form a government of the four parties. The Catholics were ready to accept the presence of the Stalinists in the cabinet, on condition that it be headed not by Van Acker, but by Soudan, former reformist minister who had been deported to Buchenwald during the German occupation.

This was not a petty demand, the product of a "partisan" resentment, as the governmental parties tried to portray it. Soudan was the only "socialist" leader who did not approve the party's policy on the monarchist question, and was in favor of the return of Leopold III. The attitude of the Catholics thus signified in reality: We are ready to form a government with the other parties, on condition that we can completely maintain our position on the monarchist question, on condition that we can use all methods to promote the return of the King

How disgraceful for the workers' parties to have to acknowledge that the most reactionary bourgeois party was remaining "loyal" to its election platform while the BSP and the CP, both of whom had conducted their election campaign under the slogans: "Keep the Catholics from power," "Nationalizations," "Increase wages," were ready to abandon everything for some miserable ministerial portfolios! The results of this capitulatory attitude did not take long in making themselves felt. If the working class does not reverse the trend by launching into ACTION, it is completely possible that in the next elections the Catholics will win an absolute majority in Parliament.

VAN ACKER GOVERNMENT, GOV'T OF TRANSITION

Why has the bourgeoisie accepted a new government headed by "socialists" when the bourgeois parties hold a majority in Parliament? Spaak, the cynical renegade, clearly explained this on the occasion of the meeting of the General Council of the Socialist Party: "At the present time, no government is possible other than a government headed by socialists, for the workers will agree to work only for such a government."

This means: given the REAL relation of forces which exists in the country, given the possible resistance of the proletariat, only a government headed by "socialists" will be able to impose new privations on the workers, in order to permit the capitalist "reconstruction" of the country!

THE "SOCIALIST" LEADERS THUS EXPOSE THEMSELVES ONCE AGAIN AS THE MOST SERVILE AND IN THE GIVEN CONDITIONS, AS THE MOST EFFECTIVE LACKEYS OF THE BOURGEOISIE. The Stalinists have no other role than that of lackey candidates, offering their good services to the bourgeoisie but as yet being accepted only circumspectly.

For the same reason, we must not as yet expect a theatrical move on the monarchist issue. Comfortably installed in his "Retreat" in Switzerland, Leopold III multiplies his secret letters and his overtures to the bourgeois "Liberal" leaders. His secretariat at Brussels is the center of a truly vast conspiracy extending its tentacles across the whole country and awaiting the propitious moment for showing its hand. By again demoralizing the workers with a policy of unceasing capitulation to the requirements of the bourgeoisie, the reformist and Stalinist leaders bring this moment closer and closer.

REACTION OF THE SOCIALIST MILITANTS

But the most striking fact of the whole governmental crisis has been the furious resistance at the bottom of the Belgian Socialist Party against the decision of the leaders to orient towards a coalition with the Catholics. Almost all of the federations of the party voted resolutions opposing collaboration with the Christian Social Party in any form. And at the meeting of the General Council, the old leader de Brouckere pathetically intervened: "Fascism is being reborn. It is being reborn in the circles which are preparing the return of the King and to attain it are ready to bypass the will of the people."

The most interesting speech was that of the representative of the Liege Federation, the most proletarian of the party. He implored the party to become an opposition if it was incapable of realizing its election platform. He warned the leaders of the party that the workers were expecting action, bold action, in economic and social matters.

Nothing is truer. While the working class is in general disinterested in the vicissitudes of the governmental crisis, it closely follows all signs of the policy which the government means to conduct in the question of prices and wages. The old reformist leader, Cailly, of Charleroi, also warned the party that the passivity of the proletariat could very well be the prelude to the storm, if the spread between the rise in the cost of living and the stabilization of wages was not rapidly corrected. But Van Acker is for conducting an economic policy "which pleases everybody," that is to say, the bourgeoisie! The result will soon make itself felt.

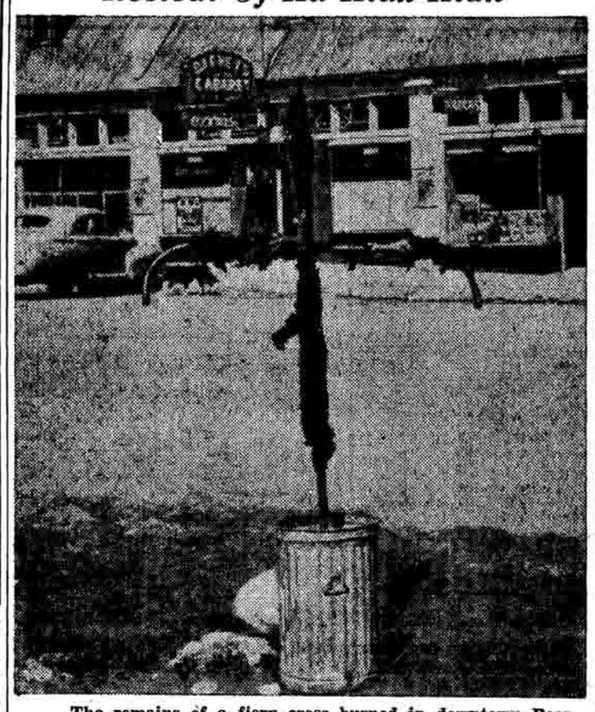
To the socialist and communist militants, disgusted with their leaders' abandonment of their election program, to the masses demoralized by the capitulatory policy of the "left" government, the Trotskyists are more than ever advancing their slogan: "BREAK THE COALITION WITH THE BOURGEOISIE". They show how much this coalition paralyzes the forces of the workers' parties and they point out that only breaking the coalition will permit a mobilization of the workers' forces in struggle for the demands of the workers.

Greek Masses Starve While Rich Fatten

Reporting on conditions in Greece in the N. Y. Post, April 12, foreign correspondent Thomas E. Healy wrote from Athens that "the poor must be content with meager supplies of bread, olive oil, vegetables and perhaps a piece of meat three or four times a year. But the well-to-do maintain the reputation of the country for quantity and quality of food. While people starve, the tables of the wealthy are overloaded."

Healy also reveals that 3,000,000 British gold sovereigns in Greece "are held by a top layer of rich men" while the workers are paid devalued Greek drachmae. "That wealth of gold was sent to Greece by the British to finance resistance movements. Germans brought in more to purchase support and the American OSS force brought in still more."

Revival Of Ku Klux Klan



The remains of a fiery cross burned in downtown Bear Mountain, near Los Angeles. In the east, also, the Klan is attempting to emerge from its hiding places.

OPA Blasts Many Holes In Price Ceilings

(Continued from Page 1)

meat packers are channelising a large portion of supplies into illegal, black market outlets.

The House Agricultural Committee's proposal is one of several inflationary amendments which Congress is planning to attach to the bill for extending the Price Control Act for a year beyond its present expiration date of June 30, 1946. The extension bill is scheduled to reach the House floor next week.

CAPITAL GOODS

Porter's order lifting price ceilings on consumers items also included the suspension entirely of price regulations on six broad classes of machinery and industrial equipment, including printing presses, textile machinery, railway cars, telephone equipment, machine tools, etc. This affects about one-third of the country's capital goods industry.

The joint labor committee, which sharply protested this phase of the OPA's order, disputed the OPA's flimsy claim that its "suspension action" on capital goods "will not affect the cost of living."

Boris Shiskin, AFL economist and OPA Labor Policy Committee member, charged: "The price pattern in the machinery industry generally and in heavy machinery particularly has been traditionally monopolistic. Decontrol now, in the face of the present avid demand and cross-bidding for machinery, will mean immediate and drastic price increases." These increases, he pointed out, inevitably will be "promptly passed on" to the American consumers.

OPA SANCTION

Big Business and its Congress intend to extend OPA only if its powers are shorn to a minimum. The OPA itself is again demonstrating, however, that it is more than ready to give legal sanction to price gouging.

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded."
—KARL MARX

by CHARLES JACKSON

Ku Klux Rides Again

According to reports from far and wide, the nightshirt boys are at it again. In Atlanta, Georgia, they have officially re-registered as the "Knights of the Ku Klux Klan" and have given notice that they are ready to do business as a "fraternal" organization.

Right after V-J Day fiery crosses were burned atop Stone Mountain, 20 miles from Atlanta. This marked the first open activity of this group of bigots since the outbreak of World War II.

Within the past few weeks the burning of crosses and similar activity has been reported from other areas. Ten miles outside of Miami, Florida on Highway 26 has been posted a large sign reading: "K.K.K. Welcomes You —J. B. Gordon, Klan No. 5, P.O. Box 337, Glenwood Heights, Miami, Florida."

Crosses have been burned in and around Chattanooga, Knoxville, Birmingham, Miami and Atlanta. In past years the burning of these crosses has signified that the Klan is mobilizing and preparing to set out on its nightly rides. On these occasions this "fraternal" organization terrorizes, burns and pillages racial or religious minorities or members of any group who differ with the reactionary program of the Klan.

AT WORK IN COLUMBIA

In Columbia, Tennessee, scene of the recent anti-Negro pogrom, a large KKK was found inscribed —significantly—on the top of a casket in the undertaking establishment of one of the Negro citizens who was arrested and which place was pillaged by the Tennessee State police.

Last week the State Attorney-General of California revealed that his investigators had found the Ku Klux Klan to have been reactivated in Big Bear Valley, a resort section.

A cafe owner in this section is quoted as saying:

"We burned a couple of crosses. It brought results. It stopped the sale of at least one property." He added that members of a minority racial group had been ordered to leave the valley.

A Lancaster, California, minister, whom the Attorney General identified as a follower of Gerald L. K. Smith, was quoted as saying:

"The Klan is here in Bear Valley to stay. We intend to form restrictive covenants here and elsewhere in order to hold the line on Americanism."

It will be remembered that nearby is Fontana, California, where the entire family of O'Day Short was wiped out by fire of mysterious origin a few days after they had been warned to expect violence from the "Vigilante Committee" if they did not move back into the Negro ghetto section.

According to the **Pittsburgh Courier** of April 6, the application blanks being circulated in Atlanta in the new membership drive read as follows:

"I, the undersigned, a native born, true and loyal citizen of the United States of America, being a white male, Gentile person of temperate habits, sound in mind and a believer in the tenets of the Christian religion, maintenance of white supremacy, principles of 'pure Americanism' do most respectfully apply for membership in the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan."

HOW TO COMBAT KLAN

What is the real meaning of this upsurge of ultra-reactionary forces? And how must we combat it?

Such groups as this with their fascist tactics are really stooges of the big industrialists and landowners. Their aim is to weaken and decimate the entire labor movement by setting race against race and religion against religion. They fan the flame of prejudice so that white Gentile workers, who comprise the majority of the exploited working class in this country, will become so engrossed in futile persecution of minority groups that they will forget their real enemy; the tiny group of capitalist and imperialist exploiters who own the factories and large farms.

Thus, although these attacks will be directed primarily against the Negro and the Jew and the Mexican and the Japanese-American, yet the real sufferer from such vigilanteism will in the end be all the workers, white and black. Thus it was in Hitler's Germany; thus they plan it here.

Therefore, it is necessary for these workers who understand this to unite and prepare to defend the minorities and thereby themselves from the attacks of the "gallant" Kluxers and their kind.

We cannot put our trust in the capitalist government agencies to really stop them. Their feeble attempts are usually only opportunist political maneuvers. The workers must have their reliable means of defense against the white supremacists and labor-hating vigilantes.

This means the formation of Workers' Defense Guards wherever and whenever any minority group or labor organization is menaced by the Ku Klux Klan or any similar reactionary group.

Celebrate May Day With Socialist Workers Party Protest Against Wall Street's War Plans!

The Militant invites all its friends and readers to observe May Day, the international workers' holiday, by attending the meetings of the Socialist Workers Party in their city. If you want to celebrate this May Day in its true spirit of workers' solidarity and struggle for peace and socialism, come and participate in the meetings listed below.

NEW YORK
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
Speakers:
WILLIAM F. WARDE
WILLIAM S. FARRELL
DAVID WEISS
GLORIA WALL
EDWARD J. FERGUSON
CHORUS — DRAMA — MUSIC
HOTEL DIPLOMAT
108 W. 43rd St.

AKRON
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
Speakers:
MILTON GENECIN
MARY CLARK
MILITANT CLUB
406 Everett Bldg., 39 E. Market

BOSTON
Friday, May 3, 8 p.m.
Speaker:
MAX GELDMAN
Philadelphia SWP Organizer
Workers Educational Center
30 Stuart St.

BUFFALO
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
Main Speaker:
V. R. DUNNE
MILITANT FORUM
629 Main St. 2nd floor
Admission free

CLEVELAND
MEETING AND SOCIAL
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
Speaker:
BILL GRAY
PECKS HALL
1446 E. 82 St. (Off Wade Pk.)

DETROIT
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
Speaker:
FARRELL DOBBS,
'Militant' Editor
Chairman:
CHARLES JACKSON,
'Militant' columnist
Socialist Workers Party
6108 Linwood Ave.

LOS ANGELES
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
SPEAKERS CHORUS
Recitation: 'Voices of Revolt'
EMBASSY AUDITORIUM
843 South Grand Ave. North Hall
Auspices: Socialist Workers Party and Socialist Youth Club

S. FRANCISCO
Sunday, May 5, 8 p.m.
Speakers:
B. WISE HENRY STERN
B. R. CORMAN
FOOD — SINGING — DANCING
305 Grant Ave. 4th floor
Admission free

PHILADELPHIA
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
Speakers:
ART PREIS,
'Militant' Associate Editor
JACK SPILLER,
Trotskyist Youth
MILITANT LABOR FORUM
1303 W. Girard Ave.

PITTSBURGH
Sunday, April 28, 8 p.m.
Speakers:
ELOISE GORDON
BILL CARLOY
MILITANT READING ROOM
5905 Penn Ave.

PORTLAND, Or.
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
GROUP SINGING REFRESHMENTS
Brief Talk by
M. HESSER, SWP organizer
SWP HEADQUARTERS
134 S. W. Washington 3rd floor

NEWARK
Saturday, May 4, 8 p.m.
Speaker:
WILLIAM F. WARDE
Progressive Workers School
423 Springfield Ave.

NEW HAVEN
Sunday, April 28, 2 p.m.
MEETING AND BANQUET
Speaker:
L. MORRIS, SWP Organizer
Workmen's Circle Center
72 Legion Ave.

TOLEDO
Tuesday, April 30, 8 p.m.
Speaker:
GENORA DOLLINGER
Socialist Workers Party
213 Michigan St.

CHICAGO
Saturday, May 4, 8 p.m.
Speakers:
FARRELL DOBBS
CHARLES JACKSON
Dancing — Chorus — Refreshments
Socialist Workers Party
777 W. Adams St.

SEATTLE
Wed., May 1, 7:30 p.m.
Speakers:
W. JONES
FRANCES ROBERTS
DAN ROBERTS
SWP HEADQUARTERS
1919½ Second Ave.

ST. LOUIS
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
Speaker:
MIKE BARTELL
SWP HEADQUARTERS
1023 N. Grand Blvd. Room 312

TACOMA
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
DISCUSSION — REFRESHMENTS
ODD FELLOWS TEMPLE
6th and Fawcett Admission free

TWIN CITIES
Wednesday, May 1, 8 p.m.
Speaker:
GRACE CARLSON
MINNEAPOLIS SWP
10 South 4th Street

SAN DIEGO
Friday, May 3, 8 p.m.
Speaker:
A. BURKE
1142 Union St. 2nd floor

O'Dwyer Sales Tax Scheme Denounced By SWP Local

(Continued from Page 1)

mand confiscation of all war profits!"

Since taking office last January, O'Dwyer has pushed a soak-the-poor tax program while reducing realty taxes. Simultaneously he has schemed to keep municipal workers at wage levels utterly inadequate for a decent standard of living. His increased taxes will not in any degree benefit any section of the working people.

SOAKS POOR

The budget now proposed for New York City by the Tammany-Wall Street administration makes no provision for general wage increases for city workers; the few specific increases range only from two to five cents an hour, and cover only 55 per cent of the city workers. Hospital workers will receive only 52 cents an hour, 20 per cent less than even the proposed 65 cent minimum wage bill provides. New appointees to the sanitation department, most of them veterans, will receive $6.91 per week LESS than present base pay!

The State Assembly vote on O'Dwyer's reactionary tax proposals was 120 in favor, only 23 opposed. "Republicans and Democrats alike swarmed to (its) support," the SWP statement points out. "The workers of New York have received one of the clearest lessons of the class character of the two boss parties," and the "end-result of supporting 'more progressive' capitalist candidates."

It was the Stalinists who played the most despicable role in deceiving the workers into support of O'Dwyer in the mayoralty election last fall. They termed this Tammany hack a "labor-progressive candidate."

Today, the SWP statement continues, the Stalinists are "trying desperately to maintain the unholy alliance between the Communist (Stalinist) Party and Tammany." To do this, "The Daily Worker is playing down O'Dwyer's anti-labor role, saying little about this 'labor-progressive's' vicious tax program."

The SWP statement concludes with a call for "a genuine labor administration in New York based on the trade unions, which would act in the interests of the workers, tax the rich and not the poor."

"To elect a labor administration, an independent labor party based on the trade unions is necessary to oppose the boss parties. It is only through running independent labor candidates on a working class program that the workers can rid New York of the corruption and outrageous misrule of the capitalist politicians."

Special N. Y. Announcement!

Edward J. Ferguson

Veteran and brother of the two Ferguson boys slain by a Jim Crow cop in Freeport, L. I., will be a guest speaker at the New York

MAY DAY RALLY

of the Socialist Workers Party.

This is his first appearance as a speaker in New York City.

Diary Of A Steelworker *By T. Kovalesky*

The fog began to sift into the yard shortly before dusk, eddying down over the trestle, swirling around the empty cinder ladles on the siding.

Before long Number Three Furnace had faded back into the fog and become invisible, except for a hazy orange glow over on the east side, where they were flushing.

As darkness thickened in the blast furnace yard the fog settled more heavily, mixing into the night. Our ladles loomed suddenly at the end of the furnace, and we began drilling out the tapping hole for the last cast. The fire glow was gone from Number Three. There was just fog.

• • •

I said goodnight to Matt and Reuben and walked up the street, listening absently to the little rattle the handle of my lunch pail made at each step I took. Out of the fog spiraled a weary, dismal wail, the hoot of a narrow-gauge engine despairingly tugging at a too-heavy load of ingots.

"That's a steelworker," I thought. "The load's too heavy—but it'll pull it all the same." Once again that reeling shriek, followed by a frantic burst of chugging—and then a more orderly, more rhythmic chugging as the little engine got under way.

Darkness and fog softened the tough bleakness of the town. The streets were no longer dry, chipped concrete dusted with the rusty pourings of the furnace tops. The warped clapboards of the unpainted shacks hid behind the mist.

A saloon door opened. Voices, laughter flowed out momentarily into the night and abruptly snapped into silence with the slamming of the door. A drunk muddled by and disappeared into the fog. There was a sharp scuffling of leather on concrete as he lost his balance, and a mumbled curse.

Once more the wail of the narrow-gauge cried through the mist, followed by the commanding blare of a diesel's horn. A dog yapped angrily as I passed a black alleyway.

The street lights glowed dimly, each one surrounded by a cottony ball of yellowish illumination. I walked more slowly. It had been a tough shift, and I was tired.

It seemed I had the streets to myself. Steel towns go to bed early, except for the saloons, night clubs, hamburger stands, and brothels, where they never go to bed in the darkness. Steel towns have to go to bed early, because tomorrow's dawn is always lurking ahead, and tomorrow's dawn must find the sweating thousands already on the job.

The sound of my footsteps came now more slowly. I held the lunch box under my arm, so it no longer rattled. Finally I reached the corner I knew so well. There was the house, the alley, and the back door and the kitchen window shining brightly into the fog.

There would be coffee, a couple of pieces of bread and peanut butter, and the latest Militant. Then there would be bed and sleep. I yawned and opened the back door.

Notes Of A Seaman *By Art Sharon*

Sandwiched in between news of budding daffodils at Hyde Park and how she tidied up her closet the other day, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt carried a plea in her newspaper column for a merchant seamen's Bill of Rights similar to the GI Bill.

Once before, I remember, Mrs. Roosevelt joined a campaign to "do good" for the merchant seamen. At the beginning of the war she and a number of others publicly expressed their sorrow that the seamen had to wear assorted articles of civilian clothing in displeasing disharmony instead of a uniform.

I never did read what her reaction was to the resounding and forceful refusal of union seamen to voluntarily put on a uniform. Various government officers who appeared at union meetings to convince the membership to accept uniforms got an earful of not exactly polite language. It didn't help even when certain material advantages were offered along with the uniform. The bait couldn't hide the hook.

Along with Mrs. Roosevelt the Stalinists in the maritime industry, who have taken an active role in the Bill of Rights campaign from its beginning, are pleading for justice to the merchant seamen, on the grounds of their patriotism. They ask that the seamen be paid off for loyal service in wartime with a Bill of Rights that would give them benefits such as the veterans are now receiving under the GI bill.

However the campaign for the bill has aroused very little interest among the seamen active in the industry. Petitions circulated aboard ships by the Stalinists were signed by everybody with a "what the hell, I can't lose" attitude. In contrast to the hysterical patriotism of the Stalinists during the war the average seaman had few illusions. He knew the reason he was out dodging torpedoes was that he couldn't avoid sailing. And most of the men had a pretty realistic idea of what kind of pay-off to expect at the end of the war. And they were right. The pay-off is here now and getting worse every day.

The proposed bill has no meaning to the men who must remain in the industry and face the attacks against his conditions and rights. In fact the bill serves to shift attention from the real and pressing problems of today and divert the struggle of the seamen into a side alley.

There is the need to remove the military control exercised by the hated anti-labor Coast Guard brass over merchant seamen. The war is over—but that control imposed during the war is still here and as bad as ever.

There is the need to protect the foreign-born seamen who are not citizens from the savage attack launched by the government and operators to keep them off ships. That is their reward for war service.

And not least among the problems faced by the seamen is the shrinking pay-off. With prices climbing steadily the present wage scale is mighty slim. A married seaman with a family can barely exist on the present wages.

Let the "friends" of the seamen and the "do-gooders" busy themselves with pleas for justice to the merchant seamen. Let them secure the passage of the bill of rights. But for the active seamen there is today one main line of action. Together with his shipmates he has got to prepare himself for a serious showdown fight against the increasingly arrogant and hostile shipowners and their stooges in Washington, the Maritime Commission.

Scourges Of Mankind *By Larissa Reed*

Powerful new drugs have now been discovered capable of conquering the terrible scourge of malaria. This hopeful news was reported by the American Chemical Society on April 11 during its annual spring meeting in Atlantic City.

The dread disease of malaria incapacitates nearly one half the world's population—a staggering total. Its most serious form, relapsing malaria, today claims 800,000,000 victims. These newly discovered drugs promise not only to cure the sufferers from relapsing malaria, but is expected in time to wipe out this affliction of mankind.

Of special interest in connection with this marvelous new medical advance are the ways and means by which it was effected. During the past four years the American Chemical Society worked on this project under contract with a government committee on medical research of the Office of Scientific Research and Development. This work was carried on behind a curtain of secrecy. The entire cost of this research was covered by a government subsidy of only $700,000,000.

• • •

Stop and think! Ask yourselves these questions. Why was this particular disease singled out from all others? If through collectively organized and systematic investigation, this formerly incurable disease could be checked and eliminated, why cannot these same methods be used to rid mankind of all plagues? Why does not the government appropriate more millions not only in war but in peace time, for this socially indispensable task?

Here are the answers.

The capitalist government subsidized and promoted the search to cure malaria as an integral part of its $350 billion dollar war program designed to conquer and enslave the world.

The U. S. armed forces were dispatched to every corner of the globe during World War II. In the mosquito-infested and fever-ridden Pacific islands and other colonial areas, soldiers succumbed by the tens of thousands to malaria.

For the sake of military efficiency alone, the High Command ordered this obstacle removed. Soldiers, you see, should die in combat from bombs and bullets—not from malaria!

Thus it was only as a by-product of the imperialist war program that this new achievement of medical science was made and has now become available.

• • •

But this same capitalist government does not intend to initiate or continue any projects not directly needed for military purposes. It is ready and willing to keep on paying out tens of billions for bombers, tanks, guns, rockets and other instruments of death. It is spending over half a billion a year to pile up atom bombs. It can find plenty of money for these frightful man-made weapons of destruction. But it cannot and will not provide the means, the men, and the money to conquer cancer, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever and other biological enemies of life.

The conquest of malaria provides another dramatic demonstration that through proper planning and cooperative research, one disease after another from which mankind suffers today can be eradicated. But the capitalist rulers of this country are not concerned with promoting projects of this kind that can benefit the masses. They are concerned solely and exclusively with enterprises which in one way or another can add to their profits and increase their privileged positions.

Medical science in conjunction with the other sciences has already indicated that almost all major diseases can be conquered and man's life span greatly lengthened. But before the scourge of disease can be expelled from the human body, the fundamental scourge of mankind today must first be wiped off the face of the earth. That social scourge—the breeder of wars, famine, pestilence and early death—is the decomposing capitalist system of production for profit.

NEW YORK
Roof Garden Party
For The Militant
Saturday, May 11
Dance To The Tune of
Kent Taylor and His Orchestra
9:30 p.m. to 3 a.m.
Elks Hall
15 W. 126 St. New York
Auspices: Harlem Branch, SWP
Tickets:
103 W. 110 St., R. 23
SWP City Office
116 University Place

Read:
"Vigilante Terror In Fontana"
Written By
Myra Tanner Weiss
Organizer, Los Angeles SWP
Price 10 Cents
If you live west of Rockies order from
Socialist Workers Party
145 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif.
East of Rockies: Order from
Pioneer Publishers
116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

Thousands Of Minneapolis Vets Homeless; Forced To Sleep On Floors, Eat In Relays

Chicken-Coops Become 1946 "Apartments"

These chicken coops have been "converted" into one-room and kitchenette apartments for veterans and others who are homeless in Waterloo, Iowa. Rent for these wretched huts is $52.50 a month.

By Nora Scott
(Special to The Militant)

Ten to fifteen thousand of the forty thousand returned veterans in the city of Minneapolis are homeless. Some of them are doubled up with strangers and separated from wives and families. They eat in relays in crowded kitchens or in their rooms. They sleep on floors, in chairs, in crowded, ill-ventilated bedrooms, in garages, attics and cars.

Other thousands, not considered homeless, live in similarly crowded conditions with relatives or friends. Still others wind up in chicken-coops, tourist cabins, lake cottages, badly equipped trailer camps, river-bottom shacks and boats. Few are adequately housed. Many find themselves paying rents or buying houses which they cannot afford.

GROWING WORSE

The situation is bad and growing worse, aggravated by new releases and by evictions of veterans who were temporarily housed a few months ago.

On March 16 the **Minneapolis Star-Journal** reported: "Vet Trailer Camp Filthy, Wives Say." The article revealed that vets were paying $40 a month to live in a "two room" trailer, and were walking half a block or more for toilet, lavatory facilities, and water supplies.

To serve at least 375 people in the camp, there are two lavatory buildings. There are two showers, two bathtubs, and three toilets in the women's lavatory which do for them and all the children. The tubs are without curtains, so they are used only for bathing the children. Shower curtains are totally inadequate. The thin curtains supposed to screen the toilets, are torn and smeared with paint.

Not only does all the water have to be carried to the housing units, but all wastes such as dishwater and slop-jars then have to be taken to the central units and emptied into the toilets. In some cases this is a half-block walk each way.

There are three washing machines in the laundryroom and a time-limit schedule for the tenants which begins at five o'clock in the morning.

Washing facilities and ice are paid for separately. They bring the rents in some cases up to $47 and $48.

Tenants must pay a $10 deposit against any damage that might occur to the trailer.

While the city sets up a $150,000 fund for emergency housing, building permits jumped in January to show a 600 per cent increase over a year ago. But this is unnecessary building, including bottling works (Coca Cola), luxury distributing plants, stores, bible schools, taverns, etc.

Where are the veterans' houses? Small houses built for $4,000 to $5,000 have been sold for $7,500 and $8,500. Over a thousand houses in process of being built range from $7,000 to $20,000. The veterans can't afford them.

Many Families Broken Up By Housing Crisis

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

MINNEAPOLIS, Apr. 8 — The human misery which is a product of the housing crisis, is mounting steadily. Nerves are being shattered, divorces are on the increase, crime and juvenile delinquency are on the increase.

Hundreds of ads appear daily in the newspapers with desperate appeals for homes. There's the case of a navy veteran and his wife whose ad in the paper ran like this: "Desperate. Rescue us from our relatives. Our nerves are shot."

Investigation disclosed that this couple live in a small bungalow in south Minneapolis. There are three adult women in the house, including an aged mother, besides one young veteran who is going to school, and the other veteran, his wife and their two children. One of the women works at night. The aged mother is ailing. Sleeping conditions are intolerable.

"Everyone in the house, including the children, is a nervious wreck. I nag my husband and I'm afraid it will end up in a divorce," said the wife.

They want to buy property but they do not have money enough for the down payment.

They had one answer to their ad, a rental place in North Minneapolis which she said "was not fit for pigs to live in."

FAMILIES SEPARATED

Investigation of another ad found two veterans' wives with two and three children each, respectively, living in a two-room apartment, sharing a bath with 10 other people. Their husbands have an attic room in the neighborhood and come over to eat with the families. All the children sleep on the floor except for the infant. The landlord is beefing about seven people in a small two-room apartment and wants them to get out.

Thousands of people are much more desperate than these, but their stories are not available.

'Labor Statesmen' Don't Impress Rail Wage Arbitration Boards

By John Russo
(Special to The Militant)

"Surely in view of this demonstration of statesmanship railway labor will not be less rewarded for its magnificent contribution to winning the war and its vital contribution to the nation's future economic life than other more impetuous sections of industrial labor," humbly begged Harold C. Heiss, one of the spokesmen of the rail unions, pleading their case for wage increases before the rail arbitration boards.

But the bowing and scraping "labor statesmanship" of the rail union leaders and their "magnificent contribution to winning the war" didn't move the arbitration boards. The rail workers WERE "less rewarded" than the "impetuous sections" of the CIO which fought on the picket lines.

FUTILE PLEADING

Heiss, in trying to get in the good graces of the arbritration board, further pleaded that the rail union leaders "have seen fit to pursue orderly and peaceful processes." The result has been an award that B. M. Jewell, a leader of the Railway Employes Department, characterized as the third of "three defeats" suffered by the rail workers, the first two being in 1941 and 1943.

MILITANTS SET PATTERN

The rail workers have been given an arbitration award of only a 16-cent hourly raise, with many inequities continued. Compare this to average increases of 18 and 18½ cents an hour, with the elimination of many inequalities, won by the striking CIO industrial unions.

Indeed, had these latter "impetuous sections of industrial labor" not set the high pattern of wage increases through their militant struggles, it is clear that the rail "labor statesmen" could never have received even a 16-cent award from the pro-corporation arbitration boards. In fact, all rail workers are grateful to the "impetuous" CIO strikers who fought for and won the gains.

Characteristic of the generally miserable arguments the rail union spokesmen employed to try to persuade the arbitration boards to grant increases equal to those won in other industries, were the remarks of Lester P. Schoene, counsel for the 15 non-operating railway unions.

FEARS TO OFFEND

Schoene dismissed the question of the enormous profits made by the railroad corporations as "irrelevant to the issue of whether they should pay equitable wages." He argued: "We have predicated our demands not upon the railroad industry being so rich they ought to share more with us, but purely upon the proposition that we, as a matter of equitable treatment with employes in other industries, are entitled to the same hourly rates."

Schoene didn't want to offend the hand-picked capitalist-minded arbitration board with references to the gigantic super-profits made by the rail barons out of the war. Yet he wanted "equitable treatment" with the General Motors workers who raised the slogan of "Open the Books of the Corporation!" to expose and demand a greater share of GM's vast profits, and who actually paved the way for labor's recent wage gains.

Schoene complained to the arbitration board that "you gentlemen of the board who are lawyers, know that you can always settle any lawsuit for something less than the amount claimed." That is the purpose of arbitration boards with their slick corporation lawyers—to settle labor's demands for "something less."

RAIL WORKERS TOO WANT 'SOMETHING MORE'

But the rail workers don't want to continually get "something less" from arbitration boards. Given the opportunity, they are prepared to follow the example of the "impetuous" industrial workers who in recent months have given magnificent proof that labor can win "something more" only through its own organized power in fighting action.

"LABOR MUST FIGHT DRAFT," CIO VET WRITES "MILITANT"

Editor:

I have noticed lately in the papers talk about "indefinite extension of the draft." There seems to be a lot of words wasted explaining just what this would mean, when it seems evident that **permanent** conscription is what the Army is after.

Every soldier who like myself was in occupied Europe saw the mass starvation there. It is absolutely necessary for the moneyed interests in the United States, that they keep an army in the occupied countries in order to keep down the hungry populations.

Big Business is behind the movement for the draft extention because it has suffered a set-back in the recent strike wave. And this is what I am concerned about, as a CIO-packinghouse worker, who has also served his time overseas.

USED AGAINST LABOR

A standing army of any size (which is what Wall Street is now after) will be used against the labor movement in the future as it has been in the past. Just last fall the Army was used in the Chicago stockyards to put down trade unionists seeking a decent living—as "rioters."

Organized labor must fight to stop permanent conscription.

H. N.
St. Paul, Minn.

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Modern Gulliver Travels Sees Lilliputian Congress

By William Gulliver

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 27—I, William Gulliver, am a bench worker. I am interested in the extension of the Price Control Act HR 5270, rent control and the passage of the Patman Bill embodying proposals for the construction of 2,700,000 homes for veterans who gave up their homes to go to war. That is how I happened to be in Washington today.

I discussed these matters with my fellow workers and was designated by them to go to the capital to see Congress about the situation. I pledged to fight for the bills as originally introduced, with no exemptions, no loosening of price ceilings, no crippling amendments. I pledged to fight also for their enforcement, with the participation of committees of consumers, housewives and labor unions to counteract the black market of the jobbers' and growers' associations.

My errand was the result of a "New York Goes to Washington People's Lobby," organized by the Stalinist-dominated New York City section of the American Labor Party. With 355 other delegates from ALP clubs and other organizations, I registered at Pennsylvania Station for the trip. We were subdivided into 47 smaller groups with a sub-leader appointed by the ALP. Each group was to visit New York Congressmen in their offices on Capitol Hill, or to call them off the floor of the house.

I PACK MY BAG

Then, with a small bag containing sandwiches, tooth brush and comb, I caught the 6:30 morning train and arrived at 10:30 at Union Station, Washington. Washington is a haven for special-interest lobbies, special pleaders for the National Association of Manufacturers, the Cotton Growers Association, Real Estate Lobby and other Big Business pressure groups. They've been very busy. They secured over 75 per cent of all war contracts for 200 of the richest firms. They torpedoed the full employment bill, the FEPC, the 65 cent minimum wage bill, housing legislation, price control. They got tax laws passed which put the rich on public relief paid for by the poor people.

These lobbies get quick action. We heard, for instance, that the Used Car Lobby which does a big business in selling used cars at black market prices to suckers, called a meeting of congressmen and over 300 responded. That's more than regularly meet on the floor of the House.

I, Gulliver, went to the Senate gallery. I counted heads. Instead of the 96 senators supposed to be there, I saw 25. Senator Ellender of Louisiana, a plantation owner, was speaking against the 65 cent minimum wage bill.

ONE DOES LISTEN

I must be honest. One senator was listening. Only 23 were sleeping or nodding or just sitting and waiting for their paychecks. Sometimes one bestirred himself to call a page-boy in black knee breeches. That was to get some liquid refreshment.

Senator Pepper of Florida asked a question: Is it true that a large percentage of workers in Louisiana support families of five or six on $16 a week income?

Ellender bellowed "Yes!"

Pandemonium broke loose in the gallery, with Bronx-ites cheering and Brooklynites whistling, until a Sergeant at Arms threatened to clear the galleries.

I went to the House of Representatives, too. From the gallery I counted 236 heads; 436 should have been on the job, say the payrolls.

HOW TO ROLL A LOG

Representatives like J. J. Delaney of Brooklyn, Lynch of the Bronx (supported by the Stalinists in the last election), Sol Bloom (too busy), and Rayfield were questioned by us delegates. They were more or less "on the fence," with elaborate plans for log-rolling — that is, plans to vote for exemptions they say they DON'T approve of, in order to get in exemptions they want.

Morgan of Rhode Island told us he was "for a fair shake of the dice," whatever that means. Butler of Buffalo is "for the bills BUT—" while Campbell of New York said he'd "go down the line IF—" and another said he'd have to "study" the bills.

This is "a day in action" of the Congress of the decaying capitalist class rulers. This is the Congress within which the Stalinists propose a "liberal" capitalist coalition of Democrats and Republicans as their price for delivering the American working people into the hands of their class enemies on election day.

Reflecting bitterly on the report I'd have to make to the workers who sent me to Washington, and hot and tired from a hard day's lobbying, I started for home. And I, Gulliver, found I had a higher opinion of the original Lilliputians than of the lilliputian politicians in this capitalist Congress.